

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
October 7, 1998
8:00 a.m.
Cultural Center
Bethel, Alaska

VOLUME II

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Harry O. Wilde, Sr., Chair
Robert Nick
Ilarion J. Nicolai
Willard D. Church
Billy McCann
James A. Charles
Lester Wilde
John Hanson
Thadius Tikiun, Jr.

John W. Andrew, Coordinator

Interpreters:

Chuck Hunt
Alex Nick
Jon Dyasuk

P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. This morning is frost,
4 ice and nice and cool out there.

5

6 Yesterday, last night, we go as far as item 10, old
7 business, new business, item 10.C.e., moose management project,
8 Subunit 17(A). Who was taking that?

9

10 MR. ANDREW: I think that was part of Andy Aderman's
11 report.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Okay. And then third, Bureau
14 of Land Management, Jeff Denton?

15

16 MR. ANDREW: Jeff Denton. He didn't make it,.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

19

20 MR. ANDREW:so we go to AVCP.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: AVCP. Michelle Sparck, natural
23 resource activity report.

24

25 MS. SPARCK: Good morning.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning.

28

29 MS. SPARCK: Michelle Sparck, Resources Specialist from
30 AVCP. I'll provide a written copy as soon as I can.

31

32 I've had a very busy year coming back to AVCP. I first
33 started with the 1997 fishery disaster on the Kuskokwim. At
34 that time I was working for Chairman Young on the Resources
35 Committee, so I did what I could there to get some disaster aid
36 out here, and then I came back here, I was working for AVCP and
37 coordinating with Bristol Bay on how we should handle the
38 disaster relief from Magnuson Act Section 312 on this new
39 legislation was going to provide relief for fishermen when
40 something like this happened, and it was the first time
41 National Marine Fisheries Service was going to utilize Section
42 312. So it was a tough battle, and as you could see, it took
43 over a year to get the funding out here. Now that we've
44 followed it with the Yukon disaster, we've gotten a more active
45 response from the Governor and from the Delegation, and from
46 Department of Commerce. The last we know, the Senate passed
47 \$50 million in aid for the Bristol Bay and the Kusko-Yukon
48 area, which they pledged certain percentages for Bristol Bay
49 and for our region. And it also included \$7 million in
50 research, so we're not exactly sure what Harry Wilde's role is

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1 on this new fishery task force, but I told him it was his job
2 to find out what was wrong with the fish.

3
4 I've worked on (In Yup'ik) IUM's Watches of the Sea
5 Mammals handled through AVCP, which we deal with the MMPA,
6 Marine Mammal Protection Act. We also work with the Eskimo
7 Walrus Commission based out of Kawerak and Nome, and the Alaska
8 Beluga Whale Commission which is -- kind of floats around
9 Fairbanks and Anchorage and the North Slope, since they're the
10 biggest users as far as I know on beluga whales, but we play an
11 active role in there, because we know our coastal villages and
12 some of the in-river communities usually land belugas once in a
13 while. And I'm trying hard to gather more information about
14 our beluga whale use. But the North Slope Borough invited me
15 up to Point Lay to help the villagers harvest, count and tag
16 beluga whales, which is pretty exciting. We -- the village
17 harvested about 50, because they hadn't the last three years,
18 so they were kind of making up for that. And we tagged five
19 beluga whales, and they've been swimming around the Arctic
20 Ocean this whole time since.

21
22 In January we met with the Board of Fisheries to talk
23 about the chum cap down in Area M. You all knew my father, and
24 you knew that he fought this issue for his lifetime here in
25 Alaska, and I knew nothing I came up or thought with was any
26 more original than he did, but amazingly we got the Board to
27 create a floating cap instead of a 700,000 set cap of chum by-
28 catch in their red fishery. They floated it to projections
29 that are going to be given by the Board of Fish every year, and
30 the National Marine Fisheries Service, so the lowest cap is at
31 350,000, the mid level is 450,000, and the top cap is 650,000.
32 So if there's expected a good run next year, then their cap is
33 going to be set at 650,000.

34
35 Area M fishermen told us that at the 700,000 cap the
36 last several years, whenever they hit the number of 400,000, or
37 up to 400,000 of chum in their fishery, they would slow down
38 their fishery so as not to get close to the 700,000 mark, so it
39 will be interesting to see how they treat the 350,000 mark, if
40 they'll quit fishing around 10,000 or 100,000 chum by-catch.

41
42 But we also brought up December the rod and reel issue
43 for our subsistence fishermen. We keep trying to maintain
44 that, you know, we adapt to technology, and that -- you know,
45 just because there's no ice us and the fish doesn't mean we
46 can't be able to hook and line these fish for subsistence
47 purposes, so -- As I mentioned yesterday, we've got lot of
48 opposition from sportsmen's activi- -- sportsmen's association,
49 so we're working with Division of Sport Fish and with the Board
50 of Fish on this issue. We have a working group where a couple

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1 members of the Board of Fish are on it, and some people from
2 AVCP and some people from the villages are supposed to try to
3 negotiate with them on how we can get recognition for rod and
4 reel use, and I know that you guys are addressing that issue
5 yourself.

6
7 I attended the Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks, and
8 our biggest issue there was the unguided moose hunts, that
9 these planes -- these outfits in Anchorage or in Fairbanks, are
10 flying unguided tours out there and dropping them off. And
11 they raft on down the river and they happen to catch moose and
12 this and that, and there's not necessarily any accountability
13 for illegal hunts, and we're just -- we were trying to get that
14 attention to wanton waste that's not necessarily our fault, but
15 from unguided moose hunters that either don't know any better,
16 they say that they're ignorant of the laws and it was a
17 mistake, or we've had problems with people -- places like
18 Stoney River complaining about the smell of rotting moose meat
19 coming into their villages, because these unguided hunters are
20 leaving the carcass out there, or they do package up their
21 meat, and then they bring it to the village to donate, but by
22 the time it gets there, it's already spoiled. So we're just
23 trying to control that problem, because it's becoming very
24 popular to bring hunters out to our regions, in our moose
25 hunting game units.

26
27 You also are well aware of the anti-wolf snare
28 initiative. For once we're actually working with organizations
29 like the Alaska Outdoor Council, which is unusual considering
30 the huge raging subsistence debate we're having with them, but
31 the way we feel about the wolf snare initiative is that these
32 people came in here to the state from Washington State mostly,
33 even the director from this campaign, they're from Seattle, and
34 they just decided, you know, they love the wolf so much they're
35 going to ban the sale of wolf pelts from -- that are caught by
36 snares. As you know, it made the ballot initiative, so it's
37 going to be in the general election in November, so what we've
38 been trying to do, AVCP's been trying to get the word out that
39 if anybody has a reason to vote, if they don't want to vote, we
40 can understand that, but if they have a reason to vote, they
41 should vote down this initiative, because once we give these
42 organizations more taste of victory like this same-day-airborne
43 wolf hunting ban, once they realize they can get the snaring,
44 then they're going to go after other trapping activities, and
45 who knows, they might ever go after indigenous rights such as
46 subsistence. So we're trying to send a clear message back to
47 these organizations down in the States that if we're going to
48 come up with management decisions on things like trapping, then
49 we ought to do it ourselves, and we don't need help from them.
50

1 There's been talk about the native migratory bird
2 working group through RuralCap. AVCP has been heavy
3 participants in that. As you know, Myron was working in the
4 bird treaty negotiations. I've been doing most of the follow-
5 through. I've attended Pacific Flyway Council meetings, and
6 I've met with other organizations along the flyway to discuss
7 the health and safety of our birds, the populations and the
8 upcoming spring hunts that are authorized once again under the
9 treaty act. For once we've gotten those rights back, and we
10 want to implement a working group or a management regime in a
11 proper way so that we have a bigger role in how things go and
12 how things are going to be managed.

13
14 We also met with Willamette Valley and Western
15 Washington and Oregon farmers who brought to our attention the
16 problem with goose -- or geese in their -- on their farmlands.
17 They've decided not to go down to Mexico or California any
18 more. They're staying in these rich farmlands in Western
19 Washington and Oregon, and they're causing quite a ruckus,
20 because they can't hunt down there, because the dusky geese are
21 mingling with our cacklers and so you see thousands of geese on
22 these farmers' land, and they're not even able to get much
23 harvest out any more. So they understood that we'd have a
24 problem with the depredation plan that they wanted to create,
25 so they invited our Waterfowl Conservation Committee down to
26 Portland, and they were toured around their farmlands and
27 explained the situation, and they also flew up here to Bethel,
28 and we went out to Chevak one day so that we could show them
29 what subsistence is to us, and how valuable these birds are for
30 our subsistence communities. And I think we struck some mutual
31 respect there, and they really respect our needs more than --
32 almost most then theirs, even though they make a living off the
33 land, too, so we -- I think we came a lot further than we
34 originally thought when we heard about their problems. So we
35 told them that we would help them any way we could without
36 compromising our stocks up here for our hunting.

37
38 I'm sure you've heard a little bit about the Izembek
39 road issue. If you realize, the Izembek Refuge is down right
40 at the end of the Peninsula and the beginning of the Chain, of
41 the Aleutian Islands. The Izembek Refuge is the staging point
42 for our migratory waterfowl who are flying up from their summer
43 -- I mean, from their wintering grounds from Mexico all the way
44 up to Oregon and Washington.

45
46 They're -- the reason why AVCP or the Waterfowl
47 Conservation Committee had objected to the development of this
48 road from King Cove to Cold Bay was 'cause we knew this wasn't
49 the answer to their health and safety concerns. Inclement
50 weather or bad weather from getting from King Cove to Cold Bay

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1 wasn't going to make it any easier from plane or by land, and
2 we knew it couldn't really save any lives, because it's just as
3 dangerous driving in that area, because there's mountains that
4 are subject to avalanches, and the single-lane gravel road is
5 subject to over drifts, and they'd have to just maintain it 24
6 hours a day, and it would just be as dangerous as going in the
7 water or going by air.

8
9 And also that they -- we weren't sure whether or not
10 the road was going to compromise the staging ground for our
11 waterfowl, because this is where our waterfowl -- it's the
12 first place they hit when they're flying all over the Pacific.
13 It's the first place they hit when they get to Alaska, and as
14 you know, they're exhausted by then, and they've got to gather
15 up their energy in order to come up to the Y-K to next in the
16 summer.

17
18 So that's the reason why we objected to the road, and
19 we've been very unpopular for that back in Washington, because
20 environmental organizations and even the Department of Interior
21 has touted our opposition, and that's -- as you can imagine,
22 didn't make Senator Murkowski happy at all.

23
24 Right now we're wondering what's happening with the
25 moratorium bill that Murkowski has on the floor. As far as we
26 know right now that they're still in negotiations on whether or
27 not they're going to vote on this moratorium to extend the
28 State's control over subsistence fisheries. But in the
29 meantime, we've been -- AVCP has been very proactive, and we've
30 been very -- we're making sure that the Delegation knows how we
31 feel about the issue, that we want more native participation in
32 the management system, and that's what you represent here, but
33 we're trying to take it further, especially if the feds are
34 going to take over on December 1st. So we'll trust you. You
35 guys use us, and you know we'll help out your board as much as
36 we can.

37
38 But we did attend the first and the second special
39 sessions down in Juneau, trying to usher any kind of agreement
40 that would make sure that we had a positive role in the
41 management system, because we maintain that these three
42 fisheries disasters in less than ten years is not a good
43 record, and we'd like -- we warned them before that we needed
44 to do something about high seas fish interception, or other
45 intercept fisheries in order to protect the returning and
46 spawning fish.

47
48 So I think that's most of what we've been involved in
49 this year, but if you have any questions, I'll be happy to
50 answer.

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1 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

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3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

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5 MR. NICK: Michelle, on this federal disaster aid, last
6 night I caught part of the 5:00 o'clock news, APRN, and there
7 was a comment made that Clinton might veto the federal -- the
8 disaster aid money on the basis that the farmers aren't -- with
9 the condition that the farmers be included in the disaster aid.
10 So what is -- have you heard anything?

11
12 MS. SPARCK: Yeah. Unfortunately, most of these bills
13 that are used to help people, members of Congress or the Senate
14 take advantage of it and slip in unpopular legislation,
15 therefore jeopardizing whether or not the White House is going
16 to look like the bad guy, voting it down, vetoing it. Izembek
17 was passed by the Senate, but Clinton has threatened to veto
18 it, and we don't know what else is -- that was a stand-alone
19 bill, so that's an issue all by itself, but the disaster aid,
20 you know, it's in jeopardy because of unpopular legislation,
21 what are called riders are attached to that. So even if
22 Clinton vetoes it, I don't know if they have enough votes to go
23 ahead and pass it through. But the delegation is still working
24 on it, and they promise to get us some results.

25
26 MR. NICK: Well, one other comment on the King Cove,
27 the Izembek issue. One of the rationale for the people there,
28 even the students at Mt. Edgecumbe, I'm on the Mt. Edgecumbe
29 School Board, and I was listening to the students debate, and
30 then one of them talked about of all things the Izembek road,
31 and the reason that they claim that they want it is for
32 transportation of emergency situations, cases of health. And
33 my thought then was as much as health and safety are a priority
34 federally and state, let's just build a mini clinic, you know,
35 for it, a clinic that will address their concerns in both
36 (indiscernible). And.....

37
38 MS. SPARCK: Well, unfortunately King Cove is adamantly
39 opposed to any alternatives. They think the road is the
40 answer, and, you know, because we have our own med-evak
41 problems in our region, you know, 61 communities, we weren't
42 trying to say that they didn't have a problem, you know. We
43 suffer the same thing they suffer, but we just think that the
44 road's not the only answer, and it was -- if it put our -- if
45 it put our subsistence source -- a resource of ours in danger,
46 we had to make sure that -- we have to go on the record of
47 protecting a subsistence source.

48
49 MR. NICK: In the issue of the ban on wolf snaring, in
50 any situation where trappers trapping, fishing or just simply a

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1 subsistence activity that whenever that issue comes on a
2 ballot, that I feel -- I agree that we should be unified, and I
3 think that's where the ten regional councils can work together.

4

5 MS. SPARCK: Uh-hum.

6

7 MR. NICK: And all the native organizations, AVCP and
8 then AFN should ban together and oppose any issue that comes
9 before the voters that in any way diminish or jeopardize our
10 subsistence lifestyle.

11

12 MS. SPARCK: Uh-hum.

13

14 MR. NICK: We have commercial fishing also. And then
15 wolves pelts are, you know, expensive, and the people that trap
16 them are doing it as an economic effort to help them
17 economically. And I agree that everything -- we should do
18 everything we can to help. We as a council could ask other
19 councils to support or oppose the vote. I don't know if we can
20 legally as a federally-sanctioned group here, but I know that
21 some state organizations frown on state-sanctioned
22 organizations endorsing or opposing ballot issues. But can we
23 as a council vocally come out with a position that we oppose
24 snaring?

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Taylor?

27

28 MR. BRELSFORD: I'll do what I can to answer that,
29 Mr. Chairman. I do know that the regional councils under their
30 charter and under federal legislation may not lobby or try to
31 influence votes in the federal setting. You can't lobby the
32 Congress using federal funds as a federal body. I was asking
33 Mike, to check and see. I've never had the question come up,
34 what about a state election, and I don't know the answer to
35 that, so I think what I would have to do is try and make a
36 phone call quickly here to the solicitor's office and just
37 verify.

38

39 Generally speaking, when public money issues to form an
40 organization, you're out of politics. You're here as technical
41 advisors for your knowledge about subsistence issues, not for
42 politic purposes. But I don't specifically know about state
43 ballot questions, and I feel like I should verify it before I
44 make any -- I don't want to guess about that part.

45

46 On Federal questions, it's very clear, the regional
47 councils cannot lobby the Congress regarding legislation, but
48 I'll make a phone call about that and try and have it before
49 you conclude this morning.

50

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1 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

4
5 MR. NICK: The reason I raised the point of maybe other
6 councils having a stand on this issue, I had the opportunity to
7 meet -- to run into Sidney Huntington after so many years not
8 too long ago from Galena. And I've never -- very rarely do I
9 hear that man, you know, talk so hotly about an issue, and this
10 wolf, the ban on wolf snaring, this is -- it is an issue for
11 him. So I think we can have them supporting an opposition to
12 the vote -- to the ban.

13
14 MS. SPARCK: Yeah, most of the regional native
15 nonprofit organizations have gone on the record. TCC has been
16 very strong in their opposition for the Interior Region, and I
17 think Kawerak and the other areas are on board in supporting us
18 in this opposition, so -- I think it all comes back to the
19 local level, too, you know, just go back to your communities
20 and point this out to people, because I don't think a lot of
21 people are really aware or realize what kind of danger this
22 poses to other activities in our communities.

23
24 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair?

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

27
28 MR. NICK: In the area of unguided moose hunts,
29 Quinhagak has a kind of patrol system on the Kanektok River,
30 what, the.....

31
32 MR. CHURCH: The river rangers.

33
34 MR. NICK: River rangers? Can like in the Stoney River
35 area, the hunt -- the hot hunting spots, can they -- local
36 people do for the fish and wildlife, utilize local people that
37 know the rivers where all the moose are to.....

38
39 MR. L. WILDE: Mike? Ask Mike.

40
41 MR. NICK:to have river patrols? Ranger patrols?

42
43 MS. SPARCK: I think that falls on the shoulders of
44 their IRAs and -- or traditional councils. I don't think
45 they've even thought about that, but we could bring it up at
46 the next meeting, because as far as those proposals went at the
47 Board of Game meeting, they hadn't really acted on it. But
48 we'll keep that issue alive and then pose that as a
49 possibility.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester?

2

3 MR. L. WILDE: Have -- On the international level, does
4 -- I have noticed in the telephonic meetings that we've had
5 with the Fish and Game and other agencies this summer, there's
6 been a lot of reports of a lot of salmon going up the river
7 with a lot of sores. Does our salmon in any way enter or mill
8 around in the Baltic Sea? 'Cause the Baltic Sea is one of the
9 most polluted seas in the world there. They could have -- that
10 could have an effect on some of the problems that we're having
11 as far as salmon.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Cannon?

14

15 MR. CANNON: Yes, Lester. I -- what we know about the
16 migration of our young salmon out in the open ocean is limited,
17 but given what we do know, it's unlikely that they're mixing
18 with fish or in -- that they're actually travelling into that
19 part of the world.

20

21 But we have our own problems. There's plenty of
22 pollution in the North Pacific. So our salmon, for example, in
23 the Copper River, there was a study done just -- published just
24 this summer, that found sockeye salmon with PCBs and DDT in
25 them in fairly high concentrations.

26

27 MR. L. WILDE: Uh-hum.

28

29 MR. CANNON: So the -- I mean, these pollutants are all
30 over the world. There's nowhere you can go to escape that.

31

32 MR. HANSON: Harry?

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John?

35

36 MR. HANSON: Yeah, talking about pollution out in the
37 sea, there's a lot of pollution out there. It started from way
38 back where the Japanese used to high seas fish. Even around
39 the donut area, that's where they mostly concentrated. That
40 area around where the young salmon go out and get big. That's
41 polluted around it. They migrate in the donut area and then
42 they come back in out of the donut area and go into their natal
43 streams. When I was on the International North Pacific
44 Council, dealing with Japan, Canada and the U.S., they -- the
45 scientist that worked around the donut area, Japanese
46 scientist, U.S. and Canada, they studied that, and they told
47 us, there's a lot of pollution out there in the Bering Sea, in
48 the Pacific Ocean, that all the fish that they discharge even
49 in salt water, they sink and then they start floating around,
50 so it pollutes the whole ocean even it's all gone.

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Rich?

2

3 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. Yes, I just wanted to
4 mention one thing. Any time you talk about pollution, then it
5 can get people really concerned, and it should. But one thing
6 we have to do is try to get it out of our environment.
7 Everyone has to work on that. But people get afraid about
8 eating their food. And I'd like to call to your attention a
9 publication that was provided by the State Department of
10 Epidemiology, and it's called use of traditional foods in a
11 healthy Alaskan diet. And in this, it's a good piece of work.
12 They go through a lot of the information that's available, and
13 the conclusion in this is that people should continue to eat
14 their traditional foods even though there may be some of these
15 things in them, because you need a healthy diet in order for
16 your body to begin to rid itself of these pollution -- these
17 pollutants. So their conclusion, and they've got a lot of
18 literature cited, and a lot of studies look -- that -- where
19 they looked at this around the world, that demonstrate that the
20 foods that you've learned to live with through the centuries
21 are the foods that can help your body fight against these
22 things. So people should not become afraid to eat their
23 traditional foods. They're good for you.

24

25 MR. L. WILDE: Well, the outbreak in the cancer that we
26 have within our -- every person I've known so far has died of
27 cancer, or because of something else, you know, and I think
28 that pollutants have a lot to do with the food that we eat,
29 because there's one out of five people, two, three out of five
30 people that die of cancer die of stomach cancer. There has to
31 be something that they're eating, I think.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John?

34

35 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know,
36 Michelle, talking about the chum salmon, I've asked the
37 Department of Fish and Game, I've asked the Chairman of the
38 Fish Board, and all of them kept telling me that AVCP was the
39 one that pushed for the sliding chum salmon. I asked them why,
40 they just, well, that's what they want. Why does AVCP wanted a
41 sliding cap on the chums?

42

43 MS. SPARCK: Well, we knew that, you know, -- through
44 time the Board of Fish kept asking AVCP region for proof of
45 interception and proof of that intercept fishery intercepting
46 our fish. And we just didn't have the resources, genetic
47 studies and then certain things like that to prove that they
48 were catching our chum on their way to the AYK area. And I
49 think that the make up of the board has changed so much so that
50 we were now talking to people, board members who were not

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1 necessarily that concerned with proof any more, but they wanted
2 to hear our arguments. We -- throughout the week long
3 negotiations, we knew that they weren't going to just lower the
4 cap to 350,000 as we had at the AVCP convention requested. We
5 asked for a 350,000 chum cap, bringing it down from 700,000.
6 And because of the make up of the board and because of the Area
7 M representation, and all the negotiations we went through,
8 that was the best we could get. I mean, we're not saying that
9 it's that acceptable. I mean, we'd rather it just be at
10 350,000 or even none at all, you know, especially since our
11 last three fishery disaster, but that's just basically the best
12 we could get at the time.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

15

16 MR. HANSON: Are we quite sure, we as the fishermen,
17 and the rest of the by-catch and a subsistence fishing, are we
18 assured that the Department of Fish and Game will have a close
19 eye on that chum to see if they -- if that should -- when I was
20 on the Fish Board, and Robin thought out the -- Trefon (ph)
21 took the state, Robin went over to close to what we call False
22 Pass, just for curiosity, and he seen fishermen not from the
23 Aleutian Chain, the guys that came from Portland and all those
24 places, they were dumping chums.....

25

26 MS. SPARCK: Chum chucking, yeah.

27

28 MR. HANSON:overboard, and I told the Department
29 of Fish and Game about it, but they say, well, we don't have no
30 record of it.

31

32 MS. SPARCK: Yeah, that's the problem. You know, we
33 can make arguments and accusations, too, but we have no proof
34 that they're chum chucking. It has to be at the right time,
35 the right place that enforcement is around for them to cite
36 somebody and put it in the records. But we have no idea.
37 You're right, we have no idea how much chum is actually thrown
38 overboard. So, you know, we can't get much assurances, because
39 that area is not as policed as -- well, it's just hard to
40 enforce fishery laws as you guys now down there as much as up
41 here, so, you know -- I mean, in essence we did drop the chum
42 cap at least by 100,000 even in a good year, but, you know,
43 it's just -- it's good to know that, you know, in the four-year
44 cycles now we know that in 2001 and 2002 they better have a
45 really low chum cap at 350,000, because, you know, the stocks
46 that did -- the escapement goals we did reach, and the fish
47 that are, you know, able to out-migrate, you know, better have
48 a good chance to get back into their natal streams in those
49 years. So.....

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1 MR. HANSON: Yeah, one year that I was on the Fish
2 Board, we had a special meeting during our regular Fish Board
3 meeting, and the Area M, AYK, Norton Sound, and we put a -- I
4 think it was 200,000 cap.

5
6 MS. SPARCK: The -- yeah, I remember that.

7
8 MR. HANSON: That was when your dad was.....

9
10 MS. SPARCK: Yeah.

11
12 MR. HANSON:still alive. And then I had all the
13 votes, four votes from the four commercial fishermen, but
14 somehow they chickened out, so our votes went three/four and we
15 lost again.

16
17 MS. SPARCK: Yeah, I heard about those near misses back
18 then. And, you know, it's kind of funny that we have the
19 support of the setnetters down there, but we actually saw them
20 be intimidated in the hallways, you know, during our
21 negotiations, so they couldn't publicly support the chum cap
22 proposal, but we did get it through anyway, mostly because the
23 Board was very curious as to why that area got an 8.3
24 allocation for reds, and there was no history as -- or records
25 as to why they got that allocation, and we proved that they
26 were getting 11 percent of AYK-bound chum as opposed to their
27 8.3 percent allocation. So it was just interesting for them to
28 finally see in figures that they were getting a bigger chum
29 allocation than they were for their targeted commercial
30 catches, so.....

31
32 MR. HANSON: Yeah, I'm hoping that maybe a couple of
33 years from now we'll get our chums back, but I doubt it. It's
34 hard to.....

35
36 MS. SPARCK: We keep trying.

37
38 MR. HANSON:(Indiscernible -- simultaneous
39 speech).

40
41 MS. SPARK: Yeah, I know. We keep trying.

42
43 MR. HANSON: I think that we'll be just like Norton
44 Sound.

45
46 MS. SPARCK: Yeah, they were a big help. They were the
47 most influential.

48
49 MR. HANSON: Yeah. For seven years now they've never
50 got their chums back.

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1 MS. SPARCK: Yeah, we don't want to be in that position
2 either. Never. Yeah.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

5
6 MR. NICK: This is in the area of fishing, but I'm
7 going to get away -- moving from Area M and get a little
8 closer. Last summer there was an assertion made by a fisherman
9 from Iliamna that beluga whales were responsible for preventing
10 red salmon from entering the Kvichak River in Naknek. And then
11 throughout the years from time to time I hear about a lot of
12 beluga whales out in the Kuskokwim Bay, the white whales, and I
13 hear a comment here and there that it's preventing the salmon
14 from coming in. And then last summer I heard that there was a
15 lot of them right out Yukon Bay, the white belugas. And then I
16 heard the assertion or the comment made that maybe those whales
17 are preventing the salmon from coming up. So what -- can any-
18 -- does anybody -- there was a news release by the Department
19 of Fish and Game of some area biologist out of Anchorage there,
20 you know, disputing the claim -- assertions by that fisherman
21 from Iliamna last summer. Is there -- what is -- is there any
22 validity on what I hear sometimes that Belugas prevent salmon
23 from entering a stream or river?

24
25 MR. CANNON: Well, you've asked -- Mr. Nick, you've
26 asked some good questions. I know that for a time the
27 Department had studies of the effects of whales preying on the
28 fish that were leaving, you know, the rivers, the smolt, young
29 fish. And they would actually put speakers into the water and
30 have the sounds of killer whales in the water to scare away the
31 other whales. And that was done for some time. I think they
32 gave up on that, it was just not effective enough.

33
34 Some people's thinking about this is that when the
35 white whales come in after the fish, and they go into the bays
36 and up the rivers, it's because they're having a hard time
37 finding them. There's not enough, and they had to come in
38 closer where it's easier for them to catch them. I'd ask you,
39 is that something that you've seen?

40
41 MR. NICK: An interesting thing that's just come to
42 mind. Last -- in years past, whenever we see a seal, any kind
43 of seal on the ocean, they're very skittish, especially when
44 you -- when we're told by the people down the coast that's
45 going to be hunting, you've got to keep at a distance, and if
46 you're driving a boat, you could drive over there, and they're
47 under us, that they'll -- especially the small ones, they just
48 go way out and we won't see them after a while. But last
49 summer, an interesting thing, the fewest instances right out
50 the Johnson River Bay, it's about 14 miles from here I guess.

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1 They claim it's 12 to 14 miles from here, Bethel. The seals
2 were eating fish out of the nets. They were bold. And it just
3 comes to mind that maybe there is some validity that when
4 they're scarce out there, that they're coming up and then
5 they're eating what they can when they see it.

6
7 But I -- using the same scenario, there was one year
8 where foxes -- it froze, you know, then the foxes were --
9 there's a lot of rabid foxes, cases in the Interior, and then I
10 had a blackfish trap site, and then there was one fox that I
11 left alone. I knew that the fish were scarce, and then their
12 food was scarce, so every time I checked my trap, I'd leave a
13 few behind for him. And it got so that he could get within --
14 that far away. I could just -- when I checked my trap, he'd
15 come out of the trees, and I'd pour a little bit there, and
16 he'd come and eat right next to me.

17
18 So maybe the seals that were eating fish out of the
19 net, because one of my nephews was laughing when he told me, he
20 said, I had to compete with a seal today. He said, every time
21 I set my net out, he'll be -- start coming up around my net.
22 He'd come up on the lower end of it, and then dive and come for
23 the other end. He was wondering what it was doing. It was
24 eating his fish.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana.

27
28 MS. SPARCK: Quyana.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Next on our agenda is
31 number five, Department of Fish and Game.

32
33 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Mike Coffing, Subsistence
36 Division.

37
38 MR. COFFING: Well, Mr. Chairman, members of the Board,
39 good morning. I'm Mike Coffing with the Department of Fish and
40 Game, Subsistence Division here in Bethel. I'll keep it brief,
41 but I want to just bring before the Board some activities that
42 we've been involved in, and some that are going to be on-going
43 that are actually a direct result of some action by this
44 Council here within the last year.

45
46 First up is a project that this Council actually
47 recommended. I think Harry was -- and Paul John were
48 instrumental in asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and
49 the Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence, to work
50 cooperatively to gather information from communities in the

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1 Nelson Island area as well as Chefnak and Kipnuk, to gather
2 information specific about subsistence uses of bear, moose and
3 caribou. And this came out of a discussion in Hooper Bay I
4 believe last fall.

5
6 So to follow up with that request, I prepared letters
7 and sent out to each of those communities this summer, early
8 June, and I copied each of the Council members, those of you
9 that were on last year. Those of you that are new, of course,
10 didn't get that letter, but the other Council members should
11 have. But what we were trying to do was communicate with each of
12 those communities, to let them know of our interest in
13 following up with the Council request to come out and try and
14 meet with the traditional councils or IRA councils in each
15 community to seek -- well, to explain the purpose of the
16 project, what the Council's interests were, what our directives
17 were, and what we wanted to gather. And then seek approval
18 from those councils to actually begin a project in those
19 communities. I also followed up with phone calls several times
20 to each of the communities, and it was difficult, because of
21 on-going subsistence activities this spring and this summer,
22 this fall, to get meetings arranged with each of those
23 councils, so we haven't yet met with each of the councils in
24 those six communities.

25
26 In September, however, I contacted Joe Asuluk who is on
27 the council at Toksook Bay. Joe's also a refuge information
28 technician here for the Yukon Delta Refuge. And through Joe's
29 assistance there, we, John Andrew and I, travelled to Toksook
30 Bay to attend a meeting of the United Villages, Incorporated,
31 which is a kind of restructuring of what used to be United
32 Villages of Nelson Island, many of you are familiar with that
33 group. So John and I went out and met briefly with them. All
34 of the communities represented by United Villages was not
35 present at the time. Members from Toksook and I believe
36 Nightmute were there, and we explained the project to them. We
37 explained the interest for a project with them, provided them
38 the same letter that was sent to this Council and to the
39 communities. And they were supportive of the project. They
40 felt it was -- it would be useful to come out and talk to
41 elders, talk to residents about uses of big game specifically.
42 So as much as they could, they -- as they said, they gave their
43 blessing to the project, and they encouraged us to continue to
44 talk with the IRA or traditional councils in each community to
45 try to get this project going. So we'll continue that.

46
47 What I had asked them for some guidance on when they
48 felt we could come out and begin to try to ask for village
49 meetings. I heard the same response that I've heard kind of
50 since this spring, and that was, well, October's a real busy

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1 month, and we've got a lot going on with meetings and gathering
2 wood, so maybe October. So we kept getting kind of delayed
3 here, not something we had foreseen, but we try to work within
4 the bounds of when people can be available to meet, so we're
5 continuing efforts to try to get that going, and we'll keep the
6 Council informed at the next Council meeting where we're at
7 with that one.

8
9 Another cooperative project that I've been involved in,
10 this actually began late last fall. This was a project that
11 was funded by a federal agency, the National Marine Fisheries
12 Service, provided some money to the Department of Fish and
13 Game, Subsistence Division, to gather information on
14 subsistence uses of seals in the area and sea lions. The
15 Department has gathered subsistence information on seals and
16 sea lions in most other areas of Alaska. The Y-K Delta is one
17 area where we haven't focused much attention because primarily
18 of funding, not having funding or staff to get out.

19
20 We did have some funding last year, and what we did was
21 we worked with the Natural Resource Department in Quinhagak.
22 Mr. Church was involved in some of that project down there, as
23 well as other residents in the community. We hired local
24 people in the community to conduct the surveys. I went down
25 and provided some training, did some interviews with elders and
26 then local residents actually gathered the information,
27 provided the information back to us.

28
29 We did the same thing in Hooper Bay, working through
30 the Hooper Bay Traditional Council. Hired local residents in
31 Hooper Bay, working through the Council there, and gathered
32 information about subsistence uses of seals and sea lions in
33 Hooper Bay.

34
35 Emmonak was the other community, working with Ted
36 Hamilton in the Natural Resource Department.

37
38 Although the report for that -- the write-up of that
39 data isn't final yet, there is some preliminary information
40 that I'd share briefly with the Council, just to give you some
41 idea of what came out of that study as far as numbers. For
42 those three communities, about half of the total seal harvest
43 was bearded seal, which to you is probably no surprise. The
44 largest bearded seal harvest was in the largest community.
45 This is an estimated harvest, with over 400 bearded seals
46 estimated harvest in Hooper Bay. This was for a 12-month
47 period. Okay. Over all, for all three communities combined,
48 about a fourth of the harvest -- excuse me, let me back up. I
49 want to make a correction. About half the harvest was ring
50 seal, not bearded seal. Ring seal. About a fourth of the

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1 harvest was bearded seal, and just about all the remainder was
2 spotted seal. There were a few ribbon seal harvested in each
3 community, and there were also some sea lion harvested for
4 subsistence use. And that was limited to Hooper Bay, so some
5 sea lion harvested there for subsistence.

6
7 So as we get the other information written up,
8 including narrative information from interviews with elders,
9 interviews with hunters that live in those communities, we have
10 some mapped information that we gathered that we were
11 interviewing elders and key respondents in those communities.
12 We'll write that up into a summer (ph) report for the one year
13 we did the study. And we'll certainly make that available to
14 the Council if their interested, as well as to certainly the
15 communities that were participating in the study. And we'd
16 like to get back to the communities and provide that
17 information, a brief explanation, and a presentation.

18
19 There's a possibility that we might continue some of
20 these seal and sea lion harvest studies this winter, if we --
21 again if we get funding for it. I don't know whether we'll do
22 the same communities. We may try to do some other communities
23 if other communities are interested. I know that in talking
24 with Willard certainly last year and with Ted Hamilton, they
25 were interested in doing something more along the lines of like
26 a cooperative agreement where we could provide them some money.
27 And now that they have people in the community that have done
28 this, they've been through it once, they know how the program
29 works. I think there's a good chance if we can provide funding
30 -- if we can get funding, that we could do something like that,
31 so potential for another cooperative project going on here.

32
33 Another cooperative project, again with U.S. Fish and
34 Wildlife Service, Subsistence Management, and certainly the Y-K
35 Delta Refuge folks will be involved in this as well, is a
36 project in Akiachak. And this project was one that through
37 Fritz George and Willy Kasailie have expressed an interest to
38 gather subsistence information from their community that can be
39 used by the community and by this Council when you are looking
40 through proposals. Now, there were several proposals that this
41 Council looked at last year involving Akiachak and Akiak,
42 subsistence uses. Some of those were deferred. The Board
43 deferred those, and the reason for the deferral was in
44 anticipation that we're going to be doing work in Akiachak.
45 And I think there's a good chance that we will. The Community
46 of Akiachak supports a project.

47
48 I think where we stand now is drafting up a shell of a
49 research design. That is, what can we all agree that we want
50 to do? Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish and Game, Subsistence,

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1 and the community certainly. And then move forward to see if
2 we can secure funding for that and then move ahead hopefully
3 this winter and try to get a project rolling in Akiachak. The
4 project will also involve hiring some local residents to
5 participate, and potentially it might -- at least based on
6 discussions with Willy Kasailie, potentially Akiachak may be
7 able to secure some funding also to contribute to that project
8 in ways of perhaps paying time for interviewing key respondents
9 and elders in the community, to gather some traditional
10 information and map information.

11
12 What we hope to come out of that is a summary of
13 subsistence uses by Akiachak, and it won't be just harvest
14 information, but it will be maps showing areas important to the
15 community for subsistence uses that the Council could then use
16 when you're looking at proposals. I think maybe black bear,
17 brown bear in Unit 17 may be an example of that, or even up in
18 19. Hopefully you'll have the information that you can use to
19 evaluate those proposals.

20
21 One of the things that's going on right now that we've
22 been doing -- well, I think we've been doing this since about
23 statehood, and more focus perhaps in the last 15, 20 years, are
24 our subsistence salmon harvest surveys that we do on the
25 Kuskokwim. They're also done on the Yukon. I think the
26 Yukon's, at least the lower Yukon surveys are perhaps
27 completed. They begin those sooner there than we do on the
28 Kuskokwim. But there are Subsistence Division staff that are
29 now travelling to the Kuskokwim communities as we do each fall
30 in October and November to interview households and ask them
31 about harvesting, how much do they harvest for subsistence use
32 and some other questions pertaining to use, traditional uses of
33 salmon. So those projects have begun, and they'll be on-going,
34 so -- I sent letters to each of the communities that we'll be
35 travelling to a couple weeks ago. We sent letter out. I'm
36 putting messages on the radio and Tundra Drums, so you should
37 see some Fish and Game staff in your community in the next
38 couple months going house-to-house and gathering subsistence
39 salmon use information.

40
41 On the topic of fish, one of the topics, or one of the
42 issues and concerns that continually arises, both for
43 Department of Fish and Game and also for U.S. Fish and Wildlife
44 Service, and it tends to come -- we tend to hear about this in
45 the springtime, and again in the falltime, and this is
46 concerning subsistence uses, subsistence fishing activities
47 focused on whitefish in the Nunapitchuk/Kasigluk area,
48 Nunavakpak Lake area. This is something that's been going on.
49 And those Council members that are not on the Kuskokwim, or
50 perhaps not as familiar with this, the issue is one primarily

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1 of concerns by some local residents that some of those fish
2 stocks may be getting -- I'm not sure over-fished is the right
3 word, but there are some concerns among local residents that
4 some of those fish stocks that come out of the big lake and go
5 back in, in and out of Johnson -- the Johnson River drainage
6 and down to the Kuskokwim, may be getting fished pretty
7 heavily. There's some concern that subsistence fishing may be
8 impeding travel of fish back and forth from the big lake out to
9 the Johnson River drainage. And the issue seems to be one of
10 -- focused primarily on those tundra communities. There are
11 some residents in Bethel, Datu Samuelson being one of them,
12 who's also been to the office. He's written letters, he's
13 talked to Mike Riorden and I. Mike and I try to keep other
14 informed of what we're getting in as far as phone calls and
15 concerns by -- from the tundra communities as well as people
16 like Datu or Antone Anvil is another one.

17
18 So I don't know what the answer is. Part of the answer
19 though is for people to talk, people that live out there, to
20 try to figure out what is the problem, how can they address the
21 problem. We don't I don't think perceive our position as being
22 one to come out and fix the problem. It's perhaps more one of
23 facilitating discussions, of trying to make people aware of
24 biological concerns that could arise, and we're interested,
25 too, to continue to hear from people that live out there,
26 elders and fishers, about what their concerns are and I think
27 we need some creative approaches on how to solve this problem,
28 because it's one that's been around that we hear about
29 continually, at least seasonally. So just to make the Council
30 aware that it's an on-going issue. The Council may in the
31 future need to address some this through some proposals
32 perhaps.

33
34 One other activity that's kind of on the fringe of the
35 Y-K Delta, but it's also something that the Council's talked
36 about at some length before, that I'll briefly mention deals
37 with Yukon moose. In the middle of August, I think maybe the
38 17th or 18th of August, Roger Seavoy and I travelled to Anvik
39 for a meeting. We were invited to come over and attend a
40 meeting that was sponsored -- co-sponsored by Tanana Chiefs
41 Conference and the four villages of Anvik, Grayling, Shageluk
42 and Holy Cross. There were several items on the agenda that
43 did not relate to Fish and Game, but things specifically that
44 did focus on Fish and Game included concerns about moose in
45 Unit 21(E), concerns about -- just to characterize it I think
46 in general, one of on-going concerns about the hunting pressure
47 in Unit 21(E) and around the Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy
48 Cross area. People there are interested in knowing what
49 harvest is coming out of there. They're interested in
50 operation of the check station on the Yukon at Paimuit, and

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1 information obtained by that check station. They want to --
2 they want to know that harvest information coming out of there
3 reflects what's really going on. They have some concerns about
4 cow moose being harvested in there, and about the on-going
5 continued I guess increase in hunting pressure from people that
6 aren't from Unit 21(E). And it's not just people from Bethel,
7 or people from the lower Yukon, that's certainly some of it,
8 but they also have some concerns about nonlocal hunters that
9 might be flying in and hunting.

10
11 They -- what I was hearing there is very similar to
12 what I heard in the middle Kuskokwim region recently, and also,
13 you know, ten, 15 years ago. Folks in the middle Kuskokwim
14 were saying they want to be sure there are moose around for
15 their children and there's plenty there now, but what's going
16 to happen if the increased hunting continues.

17
18 So, again just to make the council aware that there's
19 some concerns in the -- in that part of the Yukon about moose
20 and moose hunting, moose hunting pressure. And it isn't -- you
21 know, they're not focusing particularly on any one group of
22 people, but I think they have concerns that -- certainly we
23 were listening to, and Henry Deacon from Grayling who is on the
24 traditional -- excuse me, on the Regional Council for Western
25 Interior was at the meeting, as was Angela Demientieff who is
26 also on that Council. The biologist from McGrath was there, as
27 well as Vince Matthews, who is a regional coordinator, parallel
28 to John's position, for the Western Interior Council was at the
29 meeting. So a lot of good discussion, and it will be I think
30 interesting to see what discussion takes place at the Western
31 Interior Council. But I guess in the long term, I'd just
32 caution this Council that you may need to down the road work
33 with the Western Interior Council and see if you can come up
34 with some ideas on how to address concerns in the -- got to
35 assure their own moose.

36
37 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman. I'll be happy to
38 answer any questions the Council might have.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester?

41
42 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, over the years I've
43 noticed that, you know, we've had -- our resources have been
44 drained to an extent because -- one thing that whenever we
45 complain about a resource being depleted, one thing we don't
46 realize, or forget is that there are a lot more people taking a
47 take in a -- taking the resource, and the methods of travel to
48 those areas is a lot faster than they used to be when the fish
49 and game were plentiful. I think that might be one of the
50 reasons why. I hate to say this, but it's -- I think it's got

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1 to be said, there's got to be some type of management as far as
2 our resources are concerned, even those in the subsistence
3 area. If we're going to have -- if we're going to have
4 whitefish in the next 20 years, we're going to have to be able
5 to -- we're going to have to control the take of that fish,
6 because there's only a certain amount of pressure that they'll
7 take before we lose them. We have a tendency to talk about a
8 long time ago there used to be a lot of this, a long time ago
9 there used to be a lot of that. But a long time ago, we didn't
10 have the population we have now, and we didn't have the
11 motoring conveniences that we have now. So that's just a
12 thought, I wanted to throw that out, because we have a tendency
13 to forget that. And I think that should be a part of our
14 discussions whenever we discuss our food source or resources.
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

18
19 MR. NICK: Mike, I wanted to make a comment on a number
20 of areas. One is the date gathering on the coastal villages on
21 bear, moose and.....

22
23 MR. COFFING: Uh-hum.

24
25 MR. NICK: The method that the Fish and Game uses in
26 the fish calendars is pretty effective. You know, we're used
27 to it, you know, so we always note how many fish we -- how many
28 salmon we get when we go fishing. And then the bird numbers
29 also. You know, the chief (ph) -- we have counters in the
30 villages that are temporary. We accept that, I accept that.
31 You know, he comes to see me, and every time I go hunting I
32 make a notation of how -- what I got. So that's, you know,
33 pretty successful. Maybe in the bear, moose and caribou study
34 and the Akiachak study, it could be -- Akiachak could be a
35 model for other villages for gathering data. So maybe a
36 similar thing can be done.

37
38 And I'd like to recall -- I was just trying to remember
39 the gentleman's name, but my sister has a friend in Fairbanks I
40 believe that spent some time in Mekoryuk and in the tundra
41 naming all the creeks, all the sloughs and all the lakes, and
42 then what resources are in every one of those areas that are
43 utilized by people to do their subsistence activity. I have
44 the gentleman's name at home, and in fact he was supposed to
45 send me a map when he gets it done for me to look at to make
46 corrections, you know, make a change here and there, because I
47 -- in my area up there, you know, I -- through all the years
48 that I've conversed with trappers, hunters, you know, I know
49 probably every creek and most of the lakes, so he was going to
50 have me proof, go over his work. But all that information is

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1 going to be useful.

2

3 MR. COFFING: Uh-hum.

4

5 MR. NICK: You know, I agree, you know, with Lester
6 that in a case like the whitefish, we're -- after efforts of
7 trying to negotiate between the three villages, they're now
8 talking about regulation, and in fact, I think they
9 communicated with Fish and Game, either I or somebody, you
10 know, what would the process be to get an open and closed
11 season on the whitefish. And then the information is that
12 we'll have to develop a proposal for the Fish Board, because
13 that lake in question is navigable waters. So I wanted to
14 point these out.

15

16 But I also would like to point out something that was
17 in the year, within the past year, that has occurred in
18 villages is the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program, the
19 welfare program, because of the Welfare Reform, and the
20 disasters, the Governor has put a hold on cutting state aid,
21 and then Welfare Reform, I guess Congress is doing the same
22 thing because of all these federal disaster designations and
23 all the money pouring in to villages, so more effort than
24 before this reform. And we're on the second year of a five-
25 year state program, and one of the criteria for -- to be
26 eligible to receive the financial assistance that they can also
27 be a designated hunter for someone who cannot hunt. So I think
28 there's hunting occurring, you know, for those that are
29 receiving ATAP (ph) for someone else, because it's accepted,
30 you know, as a criteria for -- because each recipient has to
31 provide 150 hours community service to the community in order
32 to receive the monthly check, and hunting is one of the
33 criteria that they can accept as a possibility. So I think
34 some -- I know that a few instances where a hunt has occurred
35 for some other family, so that the person, the family can
36 qualify for ATAP.

37

38 So all these elements, that we have to weigh them I
39 guess when we look at hunting, were all -- you know, all of the
40 activities after the same resource.

41

42 MR. COFFING: Uh-hum.

43

44 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman?

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James?

47

48 MR. CHARLES: Mike, I just mailed my subsistence
49 calendar in last week, and -- 'cause that's all it's -- it ends
50 in September I think.

0145

1 MR. COFFING: Yeah.

2

3 MR. CHARLES: But I was wondering like Robert was
4 saying, that helps us to keep track of how much we catch, too.
5 I like the calendar that you send out, but it ends in
6 September, even we fish year around. We fish the year around
7 for -- I mean, we fish pikes in the winter, and.....

8

9 MR. COFFING: Uh-hum.

10

11 MR. CHARLES:other species like blackfish,
12 whitefish in the fall, and I just went out fishing last week
13 for whitefish over at Eek Lake, and I know how much I catch,
14 but that make me wonder, I mean, how it make me think that's
15 the end of the calendar, and I can't record what I catch now.
16 Make a fish quote (ph) or some areas fish for sheefish and some
17 areas fish for pikes and lusk. And that may help your -- help
18 you get more information for your (indiscernible, coughing) and
19 the areas for whitefish fishing. We fish whitefish at home at
20 Galik (ph), you know, the area we talked about yesterday. And
21 me, I went over to Eek Lake, but catch the wrong kind of
22 whitefish. Anyway, we talked about c&t yesterday, and us, we
23 travel to areas where there's fish and game available. Like
24 when I was over there at Eek Lake, there were people from
25 Kipnuk fishing over there in the same place. All the way from
26 Kipnuk at Eek Lake, and there was some from Kwig, some from
27 Koliganek (ph). I didn't expect to see them over there. And
28 you talk about tundra villages. They may not be the only ones
29 fishing over there in the areas, and that there may be other
30 people travel just like those people to fish with this tundra
31 villages up there. So that's -- I think that's recorded, too.
32 And maybe that would help you, more information who fish where
33 and who fished there and where -- when they go get their fish.

34

35 MR. COFFING: Uh-hum. Uh-hum.

36

37 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, if I could just add some
40 additional information, or maybe respond. I think you're
41 right. You're right on target with -- you know, with the need
42 for more information. And an unfortunate circumstance is that
43 money limits what we can do. And with declining budgets over
44 the years and not having money, I mean, I hate to keep using --
45 You know, I hate to even say that we can't do it because we
46 don't have money, but the fact is when you don't have funding,
47 you can't do as much as you want. And it has got to the point
48 where projects that we do are money -- are specified as
49 projects specifically, money comes in that says this money is
50 for this project. For example -- just for an example, the

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1 subsistence salmon surveys that we do on the Kuskokwim here,
2 that money is money the Commercial Fisheries Division provides
3 Subsistence Division. This is for subsistence salmon surveys.
4 That's what that's for. And other money's getting very tight
5 as well, so when we have money, it's usually tied to something
6 very specific, and you can only use it for that.

7
8 It's like this seal/sea lion project. There was some
9 talk about maybe gathering information on beluga as well,
10 because you're talking to some of the same hunters. And like,
11 no, this project money is for seals and sea lions. It's not
12 for beluga. You know, it makes much more sense to me to gather
13 information that you can within limits if you're talking to a
14 group of hunters that have the knowledge.

15
16 And so we've had to do very specific projects that are
17 maybe narrowly focused because that's what the money is, or a
18 little bit of money that we've had to do other projects has had
19 to be dedicated to things that are issues, be it moose issue or
20 brown bear or something like that, or in the case of money from
21 Fish and Wildlife, it would be money for doing a project in
22 Akiachak, or these six communities perhaps, if they approve it,
23 that the Council has asked us to get data from, Fish and
24 Wildlife could provide money, but it wouldn't be for other
25 villages. It would be for those -- probably for those six.

26
27 I think where we have tried to gather information
28 that's useful, describing areas that are used for a group of
29 communities or a community, has been the way we used to do our
30 work when we had some level of adequate funding where we could
31 say, okay, this year we're going to do a project in
32 Tuntutuliak, or we're going to do one in Kwethluk, like we did
33 in 85/86, and we came out with data that this Council has
34 applied, and others have used. Those days aren't there any
35 more, and the money isn't there.

36
37 I think there could be some benefit to having a harvest
38 calendar maybe for everything. Use it for moose or caribou as
39 you were describing, maybe in Akiachak as a pilot project, or
40 for whitefish and pike and others that we use through the
41 winter. Some -- I think those of you that are on this Council
42 probably use those tools that we provide to get -- to log in
43 that information like the salmon harvest calendars, but many
44 people don't. I think of the -- I sent out about 1,800
45 calendars last year, this is just the Kuskokwim villages, I
46 think we got in less than 200, so the return is less than 10
47 percent. Most people don't -- 90 percent of the people don't
48 use them. That's even when we go to the houses and knock on
49 the door, and we get -- that includes the calendars we get that
50 way, too. We get very few mailed back. Some of you every

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1 year, if I were a betting man, I'd bet a lot that I'm going to
2 get a calendar from James, because I get one every year from
3 him, you know. And Robert. People send -- some people every
4 year send them in, but many people don't. So I think gathering
5 information on pike and whitefish is -- would be very valuable
6 to have, but, you know, if we had money to get calendars out,
7 that would be one thing, but the bigger picture is, would
8 people use them? Would they report -- I mean, would you --
9 would I be able to give you information, and what's happening
10 now is we're not getting information back unless we go out to
11 the villages and actually go house-to-house. And then even
12 some communities don't allow us to do that. Kasigluk, Kipnuk,
13 they told us don't come. Don't bother coming. We won't let
14 you do it. So we just do what we can, and try to provide you
15 what we have, but I recognize the need to do it better and get
16 more, and certainly the situation that each of you are in are
17 the difficult one of needing to make decisions, but not having
18 good data to make your decisions. And that's not a situation I
19 would want to be in, but that's the situation that we're all
20 kind of in here until we figure out a better way to do it, a
21 way that people want to do it that words for them, too.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

24

25 MR. NICK: Mike, in the years, the last ten years
26 maybe, we have an increase in the reds, red salmon, on the
27 Kuskokwim. In some years I catch more reds than I do chums
28 when I go chum fishing. Is that what is -- your records must
29 indicate the same thing? Of this household last summer I -- my
30 wife wanted to make strips. We had all we got in our -- we had
31 enough slabs, but she wanted to make strips, so I asked her
32 about how many should I catch? So she said 20 should be
33 enough, so I went down -- because I fish -- I don't fish just
34 any time of the day, you know, I fish at ebb tide. And I fish
35 -- I don't fish anywhere, I fish where the fish are, you know,
36 at very, very low tide, when the tide's coming in, the eddies.
37 So I went down, set my net out, and once I got done, then I
38 noticed that the currents were just starting, it was going to
39 change, called ebb tide, bushkongenuk (ph). So the sun was
40 just coming up to the east of me. I was facing to the other
41 side of the river, so I couldn't see too well whether my net
42 was catching, but every now and then I'd see a float bobbing.
43 So I set for -- I sat down, and I -- just about 45 miles from
44 Nunak (ph) to the mouth, so I was cold, so I had a cup of
45 coffee. Before I finished my cup, I noticed that maybe I was
46 catching a lot. And then I was just beginning to drift upriver
47 right in the main channel. And when the water is low, the fish
48 are swimming, you can catch them right on the lead line. So I
49 told myself, well, maybe I'll get about 20 kings, that's all my
50 wife wanted. So I started pulling it in. By the time I got

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1 done, you know, I was so tired, you know, and so wet, slimy,
2 scaly, because of all the fish that were coming in. So I went
3 home after a short trip. And I got home and we started
4 unloading. I told my nephew, I said, count those fish, you
5 know, because I was catching kings, reds and chum. I had 60
6 kings, about 80 reds, and about 70 chums.

7
8 And it's that information that we hear like at the
9 working group meetings, people that go out, that know where the
10 fish are. An old timer, an elder who passed away some years
11 back told me once, one summer we had a very low water level.
12 Nobody flooded in the Kuskokwim, but nobody was catching any
13 king salmon at high tide. My brother-in-law, Chris Cook, you
14 know, was new in the area. I don't know, he kept going out to
15 fish at high tide. He asked me when is the best time to go
16 fishing so I can catch something? So I said -- I kept telling
17 him high tide, because that's when we caught them. He never
18 caught much. So I was telling an old timer in the coast that
19 -- I've been -- we've been going out to fish high tide, but
20 we're not catching any. He just said when water is low, the
21 fish are swimming way down there. So I thought, started
22 thinking maybe he's right. So the next time I went out, I
23 fished at the lowest tide there was and I drifted. In one
24 drift I had 45 kings and they're right on the lead line.
25 So.....

26
27 I got carried away there, but my main question there
28 was on the reds, the increase in reds? Is that reflected in
29 the study?

30
31 MR. COFFING: Well, yeah, I -- well, the information
32 from, of course, this past summer, 1998, the one we just
33 finished, we're gathering that, we're doing those interviews
34 right now, so I don't have that to give you today, of course,
35 but last year, for 1997, for the first time since we've been
36 keeping records, the subsistence catch of sockeye salmon was
37 greater than chum salmon. So whether that means there were a
38 lot of reds, or maybe it just means there weren't very many
39 chums, you know, I'm not going to make a judgment there, but so
40 far as subsistence catches, they were close. I mean, just
41 about the same number of reds as chums, but in fact there were
42 more reds reported harvested than chum salmon last year, yeah.

43
44 MR. NICK: One other -- I'm just reflecting experiences
45 here, because I'm out there fishing, but kings, chums, reds,
46 anything that swims, 'cause last time I (indiscernible,
47 coughing). A year ago, not this summer, but a year past, my
48 wife said that we should put up some chums, because they're
49 very good with seal oil. They're not as rich as reds. So I
50 went down the Kuskokwim, went below the Kuskokwim, and I set at

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1 a shallow spot, a little cove, sort of cove, and out of the
2 hundred or so that I caught in that one drift, about maybe 80
3 percent were reds. So I told my partners that reds like to
4 swim in shallow water, so I told him that if he wants to catch
5 kings, then he has to go down to the main river, to the
6 channel. So to prove my theory, my nephew and I went. We
7 pulled it in, and we went down to the main channel and set, and
8 sure enough we had almost all chums in the main channel. So
9 they have swim paths, you know. The silvers like to swim in
10 shallow water, you know. James knows it. Maybe all those
11 people that fish in river systems know that. Some fish in
12 shallow water and some fish in the channel. I mean swim in the
13 channel.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Sounds like you're a good fisherman.
16 You need good help? Thank you, Mike.

17
18 Next on our -- Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Ida
19 Alexie, Division of Boards.

20
21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Yup'ik)

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MS. ALEXIE: Good morning, Council members. My name is
28 Ida Alexie, I work with the Board Support Section with Fish and
29 Game. I don't know if I should do this in English, or if I
30 should do it in Yup'ik, but maybe I'll do it in English.
31 Everybody here understands.

32
33 This year I started back to work in August and last
34 spring we had to quit in May because our budget -- we ran out
35 of money. Our budget is really bad this year. They took some
36 more money out of our travel budget, so I don't know what we're
37 going to do with advisory committee meetings this winter. I'm
38 sure they're still going to have four advisory committees. The
39 lower Yukon, lower Kuskokwim, central, Bering Sea and central
40 Kuskokwim Advisory Committees.

41
42 I have 13 of the possible 15 seats filled in central
43 Kuskokwim. That's Kalskag on up. Central Bering Sea, 14 of 15
44 seats are filled. Lower Kuskokwim has 14 of 15 seats filled.
45 And lower Yukon has 15 of 15 seats filled.

46
47 The main concern of the Central Kuskokwim Advisory
48 Committee is the moose population, the moose regulations, and
49 wolves, bears and last fish. They asked for an extension from
50 the Board of Game for this fall hunt, because they said hardly

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1 any of their members got moose this fall. But the Board
2 decided that they were going to put that aside until later this
3 month when they'd be able to take it up.

4
5 Lower Yukon has two proposals that the Board of Fish is
6 going to take up, and -- this year.

7
8 But the area that's up for consideration by the Board
9 of Game this fall is the Southeast area, Juneau and below.
10 Next fall they're going to be taking up the Southcentral
11 region. In 1990 (sic) the Fish Board is going to take up our
12 area, and next year our area is going to come up for proposals.

13
14 I have a call for proposal, call for proposals, with a
15 deadline December 11, 1998, but this is for Southcentral area,
16 plus brown bear tag fee exemption, and reauthorization of
17 antlerless moose hunts. The proposal is calling for those.

18
19 Going back to the interests of the committees, the
20 upriver has their moose. The problems they have with moose
21 being taken, their greatest problem is moose being taken by
22 sport hunters and sport fishers and being wasted. Their next
23 concern is fish being taken too much at a time by rafters or
24 people sport fishing, and going down the rivers in rafts and
25 catching fish.

26
27 Lower Kuskokwim has the same problem. Not so much
28 moose, but their concern is going into sport fishers in the
29 Kethlahalion (ph), Kasakglurealik (ph), Kwethluk, Konektok, and
30 Goodnews Rivers. So our next meeting with Central Bering Sea
31 is going to be at Goodnews Bay, because they need to address --
32 they want to address before proposals come up their problems
33 with sport fishers and their bag limits.

34
35 Lower Yukon. There's -- a lot of you are past members
36 or present members or have been officers in these advisory
37 committees, so you're kind of aware of what areas have what
38 problems. Lower Yukon's concerns are the moose season. They
39 don't have so much problems with caribou and other fur bearing
40 animals. Most of their concerns are in the fisheries and the
41 moose seasons and bag limits.

42
43 And last of all, Roger will probably talk about this,
44 and we talked about it yesterday when Lower Yukon below
45 Mountain Village needed to change their moose season.

46
47 Unless you have any other -- any questions, I think I'm
48 done now with my area.

49
50 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman?

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester?

2

3 MR. L. WILDE: What on the lower Yukon, what are they
4 talking about changing their moose season, and what type of
5 problems are you having on the lower Yukon?

6

7 MS. ALEXIE: Moose season, they wanted to change it to
8 go forward. They wanted to start 1st of September. The past
9 season was September 5 to 20. Roger?

10

11 MR. L. WILDE: Now, what was their rationale behind the
12 request?

13

14 MS. ALEXIE: They didn't make enough money, and so they
15 wanted to go out and get their moose.

16

17 MR. L. WILDE: Oh, just for this one time, one year?

18

19 MS. ALEXIE: Yeah. Yeah.

20

21 MR. L. WILDE: I mean, they didn't want to -- not an
22 on-going thing, but just one.....

23

24 MS. ALEXIE: Actually I think they wanted to extend it.

25

26 MR. SEAVOY: Yeah, what they asked for originally,
27 maybe I could take over a second, if that's.....

28

29 MS. ALEXIE: Yeah.

30

31 MR. SEAVOY:okay. with you? What they asked for
32 originally was a season that started five days earlier. The
33 previous season was September 5 to September 25. That's a 21-
34 day season. But they wanted to get started on September 1st
35 for the same reasons that Ida mentioned, that they felt the
36 pinch for food. The Board of Game considered their request, as
37 well as the Federal Subsistence Board, and both bodies rather
38 than starting the season on the first and the 21-day season
39 where we were already taking 19 moose, 19 moose, 19 moose
40 reported harvest for three years in a row, a pretty sustainable
41 harvest, but small population sizes still. But people were
42 doing a -- you know, the way that hunt was working was a nice
43 conservative hunt so that we're still seeing some population
44 growth, and we're still providing for opportunity.

45

46 The desire to start on the 1st was pretty strong, so
47 the Lower Yukon -- the chair of the Lower Yukon Advisory
48 Committee and AVCP both were in a meeting with Fish and
49 Wildlife Service, myself, and via teleconference with AVCP, and
50 the request came about then -- Greg Roczicka was also part of

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1 that meeting, and Greg is -- he's a member of the Alaska Board
2 of Game, and the suggestion came out to shift the season ahead
3 by four days so they could get started on the 1st. It was
4 still the same season length. We anticipated the same kind of
5 a harvest, which had been working for year after year after
6 year.

7
8 And there was another distinct advantage to having an
9 earlier season in that instead of the season ending on the
10 25th, it ended on the 21st. What that allowed is for hunters
11 who were unsuccessful below Mountain Village to have more time
12 afterwards to put together a hunt upriver, because the season
13 didn't end upriver from Mountain Village until September 30th.
14 So that was the advantage that AVCP and the Lower Yukon
15 Advisory Committee chair saw in the favor of shifting that
16 season. And when the Board acted, my belief, and I'll probably
17 have to check this, but my belief is that that season next year
18 then will start on the 1st and go through the 21st, still a 21-
19 day season, without any other -- without any other changes. I
20 don't think that the action that they took is a one-year only
21 action. I'm not sure about how the season is on the federal
22 side, but the seasons were moved concurrently. Both Fish and
23 Wildlife Service agreed with the change and the Alaska
24 regulations.

25
26 MR. L. WILDE: Did you say you do think that it was or
27 you don't?

28
29 MR. SEAVOY: I think that the season next year will
30 start on the 1st, end on the 21st, just like we have it. I
31 don't know now the federal -- if there's going to be another
32 action required on the federal side. Dave?

33
34 MR. FISHER: It was a special action amending the
35 season. And that moved the season up the five days. The
36 season next year will revert back to what it was unless there's
37 a proposal submitted to change that season, to line up with
38 what.....

39
40 MR. SEAVOY: Okay.

41
42 MR. FISHER: So what we'll need to do then is submit a
43 proposal, and we can do that from our office, or the refuge
44 could do it.

45
46 MR. SEAVOY: Yeah.

47
48 MR. FISHER: Change that season to September 1, but we
49 want those seasons to line up with Fish and Game, their season,
50 so it's easier for the users, but I'm.....

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1 MR. SEAVOY: Yeah, and I'd better check to make sure
2 that that's what's going to happen, that the season will begin
3 on the first.

4
5 MR. FISHER: I guess I can check with you on that.

6
7 MR. SEAVOY: Yeah.

8
9 MR. FISHER: So we'll coordinate, or check with Mike or
10 somebody or Steve and.....

11
12 MR. SEAVOY: What I believe happens is that when a
13 season's changed by the Board of Game like that, it remains as
14 such until the Board acts again to change it.

15
16 MR. FISHER: Okay.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

19
20 MR. NICK: Roger, since you're up at the table now, I'm
21 going to raise this issue. I don't know if it's coming, any
22 endeavor through the Game -- Fish and Game Department,
23 Protection Division I guess. Last winter I believe a gentleman
24 from Bethel was cited to be fishing just a little off the
25 boundary maybe, his meat taken away, and he went to trial and
26 he was acquitted, but he didn't have the meat. So everybody is
27 concerned, correct in the local newspaper that in the case --
28 in a situation where a hunter is cited for any infraction of
29 law and then the hunter has meat, that the meat be kept
30 somewhere frozen so that if the guy's found innocent that he be
31 given the meat?

32
33 MR. SEAVOY: Yeah, I can probably address some of that,
34 but keep in mind that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
35 has not had an Enforcement Division since 1972, you know, like
36 26 years, and people still call the game wardens, they call
37 them Fish and Game, and they're not, they're Fish and Wildlife
38 Protection. They have uniforms, we don't. We have a hat.

39
40 But I do know some of what goes on with that, and, you
41 know, we do work fairly closely with them. In the situations
42 that I've been aware of, you know, hunters turning themselves
43 in, they try to turn themselves in to Fish and Game fairly
44 regularly, and we do what we can with the meat. The one
45 instance that I can think of is where a muskox hunter on
46 Nunivak Island had a bull permit and he shot a cow. He turned
47 himself in. What happened with that meat is that it went to a
48 local -- well, they had the Reindeer Herders Association over
49 there. They had a locker where they could keep the meat, and
50 that meat was set aside right there, and eventually it was

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1 distributed right there in the village.

2

3 One other instance that I'm familiar with is where an
4 individual last year at Paimuit, a young kid shot a cow moose,
5 and his parents brought him in and said, hey, this is not what
6 we're trying to teach our son here, you know, we want to turn
7 -- we want to turn the meat over, and we want to turn him in,
8 and, you know, we gave him a warning, and then distributed the
9 meat in Russian Mission. Fish and Wildlife Protection happened
10 to come by right away after that, and they took care of the
11 meat, and that's how they do it, is.....

12

13 But when they hold it for evidence, they do to my
14 knowledge try to keep that meat from spoiling. I heard, just
15 like you had of that situation where somebody was complaining
16 that, you know, he shot a moose that turned out to be not
17 illegal. But he lost the meat, and the meat went bad in the
18 meantime and -- or it was distributed before it happened. You
19 know, it's a different department even that deals with
20 enforcement issues any more, so I'm not sure exactly what they
21 do, you know.

22

23 MR. HANSON: (Indiscernible, coughing) Mr. Chairman,
24 talking moose down on the lower part of the Yukon below
25 Mountain Village where they opened -- they wanted to open
26 September 1st to the 21st, I know the public wasn't informed
27 about it. All they kept saying was, well, they're going to
28 open it September 1st. For the past 15 years we've always had
29 the season from 5 to the 20th,.....

30

31 MR. SEAVOY: 25.

32

33 MR. HANSON:for 15 years.

34

35 MR. SEAVOY: Five to 25.

36

37 MR. HANSON: I mean 15 days, which was adequate for
38 that area, because 1957, we had abundance of moose, and all of
39 a sudden there was no moose. In one -- in that same year. So
40 we had to close, a five-year mandatory closure, but the moose
41 just trickled in, and then after the fifth year, we closed five
42 more years, because we wanted them. So now we've got lots of
43 moose. And I don't think they should open a whole month there,
44 because we want to keep the moose, let them keep growing. But
45 if the public wants to open the 1st, fine. But they have to be
46 informed first, and this summer it wasn't informed until after
47 it was, since the lower part of the Yukon after the salmon
48 disaster, maybe that's why they opened it.

49

50 MR. SEAVOY: What I recall of that situation is the

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1 request came from the Chair of the Lower Yukon Advisory
2 Committee, and it was perceived by the Board as being a request
3 from the local residents. And AVCP helped promote that request
4 with the same perception, you know, that it was what the local
5 residents wanted. It was done fairly quickly. I know we put
6 the proposal -- we finished the work on it, you know, Board
7 members were in the middle of doing a lot of other things just
8 prior to the hunting season, just like a lot of us, they're
9 busy getting their preparations ready, trying to get the time
10 off for what they're doing, and putting hunts together on their
11 own. And it was a lot of work to get a quorum for the Board to
12 meet that, so that the Board could address that issue. They
13 did that -- And I agree with you that they did that at fairly
14 short notice. We didn't get that emergency order done and
15 completed and distributed until the day of the opening. Fish
16 and Wildlife Service made preliminary announcements so people
17 were kind of prepared for it, at least the people they could
18 announce it to, and we got it on the radio, and sent out public
19 service announcements to each of the villages.

20
21 The -- with the season length being the same, the
22 comments of Fish and Game, and the recommendation that Fish and
23 Game gave to the Board of Game was no recommendation. You
24 know, either one is going to be a satisfactory season length as
25 far as expected harvest is concerned. And I think it's a
26 matter of preference which 21 days are going to make sense.
27 And the Board perceived that they were being more responsive to
28 local residents by allowing that request to go forward. I
29 think if that's no longer the case, you know, if the local
30 residents wanted the season to revert back to the 5 through
31 25th, a similar proposal is in order. And if that's what local
32 residents decided what they wanted now, we'd probably have the
33 same comment as no recommendation, and just go with whatever
34 local residents wanted.

35
36 MR. HANSON: Yeah, because I was surprised when the
37 20th came, or 22nd or 23rd, somebody told me, well, they
38 extended it five more days to September 26th, holy sakes, it's
39 almost the end of September.

40
41 MR. SEAVOY: Yeah. Yeah, that part didn't happen.
42 That was one of those vicious rumors that starts flying and
43 people love it and act on it, and that wasn't the case. It did
44 end on the 21st. And I think because of that, I think
45 Protection had their presence in the lower part of the Yukon
46 during that time of the year.

47
48 MR. HANSON: But before the 20th, all of them moose
49 hunters down where I was, they were hunting their -- they all
50 left for upriver. They couldn't catch their moose.

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1 MR. SEAVOY: Uh-hum.

2

3 MR. HANSON: And a lot of them just took off and went
4 to Paimuit, Tuckersville (ph), and all them places.

5

6 MR. SEAVOY: Uh-hum. I think that's -- there's
7 actually some advantage I think to some of that. By having
8 that -- the lowest part of the Yukon, from Mountain Village on
9 down, still has a potential to grow more moose, you know, you
10 could still have a higher moose population than what you have
11 right now, and still have a harvest taking place, you know, and
12 an increasing harvest probably taking place while your
13 population is growing.

14

15 It's also worthwhile, you know, we heard the numbers
16 that Steve Kovach presented yesterday from Pilot Station up to
17 Paimuit where moose populations, at least the wintertime
18 populations that we were surveying, increased from an estimate
19 of -- well, let's just use the estimate -- estimated
20 population, just over 2,000 moose. If you shift some of that
21 hunting pressure from the lowest part of the river up to where
22 we've got 2,000 moose, you can tolerate it a little bit better
23 in that higher moose population and still allow that growing
24 population while meeting the needs of the residents. That
25 extra nine days at the end of the season, you know, from the
26 22nd to the 30th inclusive is -- I think there's some advantage
27 to having that earlier season. The disadvantages to that
28 earlier season that I heard over the phone were that there's
29 still leaves on the trees, water levels usually a little bit
30 high, you know, you don't see tracks as much on the shore, and
31 moose aren't moving around as much earlier in the season as
32 they are late in the season, makes it harder to hunt. I think
33 particularly this year, you know, Harry and I talked about this
34 a little bit before where -- and a number of other hunters
35 mentioned it throughout the area, the rut started late, so that
36 kind of shifting the season earlier when the rut starts late
37 makes it even a little bit harder. So this particular year was
38 probably made a little bit more difficult to have that earlier
39 season compared to late season.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ten minutes break.

42

43 (Off record)

44

45 (On record)

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm start watching time, we're really
48 close.

49

50 MR. ANDREW: Roger Seavoy.

0157

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
2 next is on B, Division of Game Division, Roger Seavoy.

3
4 MR. SEAVOY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess it's going
5 to be fortunate you're interested in brevity, and a lot of
6 people have covered a lot of this stuff that I wanted to talk
7 about already. Steve Kovach in particular.

8
9 One thing I'd like to mention first is that Leo Kelly
10 with Fish and Game, behind Steve Kovach, is also another agency
11 person who hasn't been introduced yet. He's been a technician
12 for me, and he's been real important keeping the -- running the
13 Paimuit check station for us this year, and he'll be working
14 with me for a few more months.

15
16 The Paimuit check station was kind of special this
17 year. We had -- we were able to build a cabin there. When I
18 say we, it's Fish and Wildlife Service, it's a refuge cabin on
19 refute land, and Fish and Game helped build it. And it's
20 particularly special, because it's in memory of Randy Kacyon.
21 There's been a plaque erected on the cabin itself. Randy's
22 father came out for the dedication. Randy's father-in-law come
23 up for the dedication. Randy's father-in-law brought a couple
24 of small trees, they're pine trees. They look a little
25 different than the other trees that are out there, to kind of
26 make it -- set things off a little different from the rest of
27 the forest. And he put some of Randy's ashes in when the
28 planted the trees, you know, and I think it's kind of a nice
29 memorial.

30
31 The results of the check station aren't entirely
32 completed. We just got back, and we've got a note book that
33 we're filtering through. But in short, we checked 39 moose
34 this year that came through the check station. That's about
35 two-thirds of what there was before. Last year there were 59
36 moose taken through it. I think some of the same -- the
37 reasons for it are probably exactly what people would expect,
38 you know, the money wasn't available to put together trips. I
39 think there were fewer hunters up there, which is one reason.
40 I think the other one is because of the rut was late, and moose
41 moved around a lot less. We were up there a couple days past
42 the season. It took us a while to get the things taken apart,
43 and we started seeing more moose a couple of days after the
44 season closed up there. That is in 21(E). And the season
45 closes on the 25th there, so it was between the 25th and the
46 30th that moose started moving around up there.

47
48 The check station on the Kuskokwim, the moose check- --
49 moose hunter check station on the Kuskokwim was moved to Aniak
50 in an attempt to try to get more hunters, you know, with the

0158

1 idea being that a lot of people are stopping there for gas
2 anyway. And there were some problems and some comments that we
3 got from residents about the check station's previous location.
4 The previous was chosen because it was on state land more than
5 anything. But we still had to cross a portion of KNE land, and
6 we had a permit to do that, but it was on a cut bank. It was
7 hard to see, and it wasn't perfect. I'm not sure what the best
8 location is going to be next year.

9
10 We got a few more animals checked through. We
11 contacted more hunters. The emphasis also was able to include
12 some fly-out hunters, so we were able to check them, keep an
13 eye on them. The word around Aniak was that compliance was
14 better because there was a presence, you know, particularly for
15 those fly-out hunters. But we still have to make a decision as
16 to whether that's preferable or not to have it up there. Fish
17 and Wildlife Service put quite a bit of money into running that
18 check station there, so it was a little more expensive. So we
19 need to make that decision.

20
21 There is support, and I want to emphasize this, there
22 is support for a Kuskokwim River moose management plan from
23 Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, and I'm sure
24 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well. Our agency has
25 identified low moose numbers on the Kuskokwim as a real
26 problem, but it's also a real opportunity. Enhancement of this
27 resource has tremendous potential, and I wanted to read that
28 word for word from what I presented on the memo, but I really
29 think there's a lot of positive things that could happen if we
30 get a Kuskokwim moose group together.

31
32 We talked about this somewhat already, but I'll do this
33 briefly. I conducted a moose count along the lower Yukon River
34 from Mountain Village down to the coast last March. It was not
35 an attempt to obtain a population estimate. It was more an
36 opportunity for me to develop an understanding about moose in
37 the area. You know, Randy was here not that long ago.
38 Obviously I haven't been here all that long then, and I needed
39 the chance to get more familiar with what's going on down that
40 way. In about four hours I counted 54 moose. Twenty-one of
41 those were calves, that leaves 33 adults that we were able to
42 find. It's positive, but it's hard to compare with other
43 numbers because of the way I conducted the flight. It wasn't
44 done systematically. But I think it served the purpose that I
45 wanted to do, you know. I wouldn't be able to talk with you in
46 any kind of a knowledgeable fashion if I hadn't made that
47 flight.

48
49 One thing I'm kind of excited about is I started an
50 incentive program to entice hunters to turn in their harvest

0159

1 report for moose. It's required, but compliance, particularly
2 by hunters who are unsuccessful, is low. During the break,
3 John Andrew and I were talking about this a little bit. I was
4 able to get some prizes from Bethel license vendors to
5 distribute to whoever gets lucky enough to be drawn. I'm going
6 to hold the drawing using those harvest tickets in next August,
7 about the time people are gearing up for the next hunting
8 season, so that they start thinking about picking up their
9 harvest tickets before that. We're going to give away a \$400
10 gift certificate from AC Store toward purchase of a firearm.
11 We're going to give away a GPS that was donated by a Fish and
12 Game employee out of Kotzebue. I D Variety provided \$100 gift
13 certificate. And Swanson's provided \$100 gift certificate, so
14 it's not just because -- you know, there's a reason now to turn
15 in your harvest tickets, you know, you've got a chance to win
16 something that's as beneficial as a rifle. And I want to thank
17 the vendors specifically for doing that.

18
19 Michelle mentioned some of this, but I think that it's
20 worth repeating. There's an important initiative coming up in
21 November regarding wolf snaring. I want to encourage you to
22 learn more about it, and make an effort to vote. I'm not in a
23 position where I'm allowed to say which way to vote, so that's
24 as much as I want to say about it, but take the time for.

25
26 And finally I want to compliment the Chair and the
27 members of the Council for conducting an excellent meeting.
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John?

31
32 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, Roger,
33 this initiative, I've never heard it, but I think I read it in
34 the newspaper a little bit.

35
36 MR. SEAVOY: Regarding wolf snaring?

37
38 MR. HANSON: The wolf initiative. Is that to do wolf
39 snaring or.....

40
41 MR. SEAVOY: This is what I understand about it, I'm
42 glad you brought that up so I can discuss it more. This is not
43 -- this is not an initiative initiated at all by any of the
44 agencies, or any of the advisory committees or any federal --
45 the state or federal agencies did not initiate this. This is
46 an initiative initiated by citizens of Alaska using the
47 petition process. If you went into Anchorage, you might have
48 had somebody stick a clip board in front of your face and say,
49 would you like to sign a petition to eliminate wolf snaring in
50 Alaska. Some people, wow, wolf snaring, okay, and they sign

0160

1 it. They got 25,000 signatures. That was enough to put this
2 initiative on the ballot. It kind of went through a little bit
3 of legal shenanigans in the meantime, but it -- as it turns
4 out, it will be on the ballot. And during the voting process
5 that takes place in November, you know, when the Governor's
6 elected and other legislatures and other initiatives, people
7 are going to look at the ballot and they're going to say -- and
8 they're going to read a paragraph, and they're going to just
9 decide from that paragraph basically whether wolf snaring will
10 exist in Alaska after that election or not. That's the
11 situation right now.

12
13 John Andrew and I have talked about it quite a bit
14 before, and I don't know if you want to mention anything more
15 about it or not, but that's basically what it is right now.

16
17 MR. HANSON: And that initiative came from not the
18 hunters,.....

19
20 MR. SEAVOY: That's correct.

21
22 MR. HANSON:it came from the environmentalists
23 and.....

24
25 MR. SEAVOY: That's right, and when Michelle presented
26 it the other -- when she was up here, that's exactly what
27 happened.

28
29 MR. HANSON: This -- well, the first time they did that
30 was when I was on the Game Board, but they just told the Game
31 Board, the environmentalists, but we told them, no, we can't do
32 that. If the hunter wants to use snare or trap, he can use
33 snare and trap, but now it's going to be voted by the people,
34 and I hope.....

35
36 MR. SEAVOY: Uh-hum.

37
38 MR. HANSON:the people turn it down.

39
40 MR. SEAVOY: And exactly the same thing happened again
41 during the last Board of Game process. There were lots of
42 petitions -- or, excuse me, lots of proposals put forth to
43 restrict snaring, and in just about every instance the Board
44 said, no, snaring is a legitimate way to take wolves. In fact,
45 in Unit 18, nearly all the wolves that are taken by people who
46 lay traps of some sort are taken by snares. Traps are
47 expensive. Traps -- a wolf, a good wolf trap costs \$100. Wolf
48 snares, you can make them for, you know, a buck and a half I
49 suppose. It's not very expensive to make a wolf snare. So
50 it's the method of choice out here.

0161

1 MR. L. WILDE: How is the petition process, is that --
2 do they check every one of them to make sure they're voters,
3 right?

4
5 MR. SEAVOY: Yeah, they check every.....

6
7 MR. L. WILDE: You've got to be a voting member of the
8 State of Alaska in order to be a signator on a petition?

9
10 MR. SEAVOY: Yeah. In fact they have to -- once they
11 get the number of votes that -- or number of signatures that
12 they need, then those signatures are checked against the other
13 registration records, and what happened even on this one is
14 they got like 26,000 signatures. They need 25,000. They
15 checked it. That dropped down to about 17,000 signatures, and
16 they were given another 30 days to get the rest of the
17 signatures that they needed to put it on the ballot. Once
18 that's accomplished, then there it is on the ballot.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Roger, I have a couple of items. One
21 is I hunt right there about four bends above check station
22 there. This year something -- we were really kind of alert.
23 First people are looking for marker, Unit 18 marker line. You
24 can't see them. I think that the markers should be painted
25 white instead of brown like willows. People couldn't hunt it
26 -- I mean find it, and there was some people hunting above that
27 line, passing it, because they couldn't find that marker.

28
29 And the other thing, people go down maybe on September
30 3rd, go down there, try to find out what area is open, and
31 those -- you wasn't there, those people was down there, one
32 from Marshall or Russian Mission. They don't know where it's
33 open. All this is -- what this area is open. One of the boys
34 from Scammon Bay come over and told me that, well, we might as
35 well go hunting anywhere, because I think it's every --
36 everywhere is open around here. I think they should have, you
37 know someone there from the beginning that -- who know about
38 what area is open and what area is not, because when I came
39 there, a mile or so (ph) inside, there was someone hunting
40 already. The boys want to go in there and hunt, and I tell
41 them, no, let's wait until it's open. I don't think it's open
42 right now.

43
44 MR. SEAVOY: That shouldn't be problem next year. Leo
45 Kelly like I mentioned is the technician that's likely to
46 get.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum. I.....

49
50 MR. SEAVOY:hired to do that job year after year.

0162

1 He had some personal reasons why he couldn't be there this
2 year.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

5
6 MR. SEAVOY: But that's the intent, and I agree with
7 you, we need to have people out there that know what they're
8 doing.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think that the most important thing
11 is that marker, you can't see it. It have to be.....

12
13 MR. SEAVOY: Yeah. Yeah, I've got a note to make sure
14 that that's replaced.

15
16 MR. L. WILDE: I was looking for it, and.....

17
18 MR. SEAVOY: Uh-hum. And you're thinking of the
19 one.....

20
21 MR. L. WILDE:of course, I have plenty of reason
22 -- and get it off the ground. We can't see it when it falls --
23 when the wind blows it off. Hang it on a tree so it's visible.

24
25 MR. SEAVOY: And the one you're thinking about is the
26 one at 12-Mile Slough particularly, right?

27
28 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, the 12-Mile Slough.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

31
32 MR. SEAVOY: Yeah.

33
34 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, near the beach.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John?

37
38 MR. HANSON: And another thing is when you put the
39 mark, I used to go 12-Mile, and a little bit of sign inside the
40 tree.

41
42 MR. SEAVOY: Uh-hum.

43
44 MR. HANSON: One time I didn't find it until my other
45 partner said we just passed a marker.

46
47 MR. SEAVOY: Uh-hum.

48
49 MR. HANSON: I went back and looked at it hard, and
50 it's inside the tree. Just like your check point. They've got

0163

1 a sign way the hell gone at the end of -- lower end of 12-Mile.
2 I raised hell with them guys that were in the check point
3 station. Told them to buy me gas, but they didn't, so --
4 inside 12-Mile, and on the outside of the island, you should
5 have that sign, instead of at Paimiut Village and then inside
6 12-Mile where it's hidden. People mostly go on the Yukon side.
7 Some going to 12-Mile and go up, so.....

8
9 MR. SEAVOY: We'll get some signs up there. I think
10 that's a real good idea, that it should be done. I wasn't
11 aware that that one sign wasn't facing (ph).

12
13 MR. NICK: A GPS location because some of us bring
14 along.....

15
16 MR. SEAVOY: Uh-hum.

17
18 MR. NICK:a GPS in case something happens.

19
20 MR. SEAVOY: In fact I think that's a good idea for a
21 lot of things that they have in the regs book, they should just
22 put a GPS location right with it.

23
24 MR. L. WILDE: Do you have a radio that you stand by
25 on, VHF?

26
27 MR. SEAVOY: We have a VHF there with batteries
28 running.....

29
30 MR. L. WILDE: Do you have.....

31
32 MR. SEAVOY:all day long. We don't.....

33
34 MR. L. WILDE: Do you monitor.....

35
36 MR. SEAVOY:have it on all the time.

37
38 MR. L. WILDE:standard 68?

39
40 MR. SEAVOY: Yeah.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Roger, I think it's very important for
43 the people that hunt, because I was a coordinator in the
44 disaster this year, and people didn't have very much money to
45 go up that area, but those people that go up there, the family
46 get together and share with guest. And then they were
47 requesting me, because they know that I am on Federal
48 Subsistence Board, you know, and they said that is it possible
49 that the check point up there have a VHF in case our family
50 have a problem, we could always have someone to contact. I

0164

1 think that that would be good if they have availability -- they
2 had a VHF, and most of them, they contact on 68 or -- I think
3 it was 68 that most of the people stand by.

4
5 MR. SEAVOY: Uh-hum. The one problem we have with VHF,
6 and maybe, Leo, you might want to come up and talk about that a
7 little bit, was the reception that we were getting.

8
9 MR. KELLY: Yeah, when -- I'm from Pilot Station, and
10 I've hunted up there many times. And when I was up there, I've
11 been standing by on channel 68, and I've helped some people in
12 keeping contact with other hunters either by leaving -- either
13 by other hunters leaving them a note, or just a message like
14 where their whereabouts would be, or if they're having any gas
15 or motor problems. And the other way we keep in contact is
16 we've got a UHF radio where we call every morning to Bethel as
17 part of a check in. And we did have one incident where one
18 hunter was -- had some motor problems, and he was from Mountain
19 Village. And he went through Bethel to get Bethel to call
20 Mountain Village and to relay the message. And it worked out
21 really well with the UHF radio. And Fish and Wildlife also
22 gave us an emergency -- or a phone, a satellite phone that we
23 can only use during emergencies. And that -- we've got some
24 numbers where we can call if anything should happen.

25
26 MR. SEAVOY: (Whispered conversation)

27
28 MR. KELLY: Uh-hum.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

31
32 MR. NICK: I had my first opportunity to hunt in the
33 Innoko River last year. My brother-in-law took me up there,
34 and he told me that you cannot use a VHF communication up in
35 the Innoko, that those people upriver will disallow it. So we
36 were never able -- I had my walkie-talkie, and when we
37 separated, I told him I would stand by on 68, and he said we
38 can't use them up here, so.....

39
40 MR. SEAVOY: You -- that's yes and no. That's true,
41 and in another way it's not. It's illegal to use electronic
42 devices like that for talking about hunting and moose and, you
43 know, telling somebody across the slough, okay, here comes a
44 moose coming toward you. We're going to drive it toward you or
45 something like that. It's -- and the Fish and Wildlife
46 Protection officers have their radios on, too, and they listen
47 for it. But they don't -- you know, if you're not talking
48 about hunting, you know, you -- and that sort of thing, it's
49 okay.

50

0165

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think mostly use them for
2 emergencies, and I know that in my camp there that sometimes I
3 stand by. They call -- especially when it's windy in the
4 Yukon, you know, it's pretty rough right there outside of
5 Paimuit Slough, and sometime that hunters trying to contact
6 checkpoint if there's certain people was there or not, because
7 of when they separate, you know. I know that you can't really
8 use VHF in that area, especially talking about the moose and
9 all that; however, when the emergency arise, they always try to
10 get ahold of check point, which area is open and all that. And
11 that helps some of the people, you know, try to help -- try to
12 go certain area for hunt.

13
14 MR. SEAVOY: Uh-hum.

15
16 MR. NICK: Maybe it can be done -- used by somebody
17 else besides me. When I hunt in that area, but on the other
18 side of the hills there on the Johnson River tributaries, and
19 every day early in the morning and then in the after- -- in the
20 evening, I always converse with Charlie Boots (ph), because I
21 know he's on the other side, you know, and when I need to relay
22 a message home, I know I cannot reach from where I am, so I
23 just call Charlie and say, will you give my wife -- try calling
24 my wife on channel 68 and then just relay like instant
25 communication. But Charlie is right there near Paimuit Slough,
26 and he always has his radio on.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thadius, do you have a.....

29
30 MR. TIKIUN: Yes, I've got one. I've got him from Holy
31 Cross, because that's where I usually hunt, 21(E), and the last
32 couple of years I've been up there, you know, people can
33 request harvest ticket and can't get any up there in Holy
34 Cross. Do you send those just to the villages that request
35 them or.....

36
37 MR. SEAVOY: Those are generally given out by license
38 vendors. You know, if you've got a license vendor in the
39 community, then that's who a person would generally go to to
40 get harvest tickets. At the check station we usually have
41 harvest tickets as well. We know that sometimes people have a
42 hard time getting them, and, you know, when they come through
43 the check station, we can provide that. And then I think if --
44 you know, if you're coming from Bethel, there's four, we're
45 working on five different license vendors in town besides Fish
46 and Game that has.....

47
48 MR. TIKIUN: Yeah, I have my harvest tickets when I
49 leave out of here, but.....

50

0166

1 MR. SEAVOY: Uh-hum.

2

3 MR. TIKIUN:it's people up there that -- I think
4 one was cited up there for -- this year for not having a
5 harvest ticket, and, you know, there was no harvest tickets up
6 there at all.

7

8 MR. SEAVOY: Yeah, and that's up to the vendors. You
9 know, there's vendors that are done (ph) time after time after
10 time. But one of the difficulties with working in -- you know,
11 going from Bethel to Holy Cross or going from Unit 18 into Unit
12 21(E), is that you're also crossing regional boundaries, so you
13 know, at some point you have to draw a line on the map where
14 everybody in Region 5, which Unit 18 is part of Region 5, we
15 get our supplies from Nome. 21(E) is part of Region 3, and
16 they get their supplies out of Fairbanks with a different area
17 biologist. You know, we're talking quite a bit about 21(E),
18 but actually I'm not the area biologist of 21(E). That
19 person's in McGrath. So he's the one that coordinates supplies
20 for Holy Cross.

21

22 MR. TIKIUN: Thank you.

23

24 MR. SEAVOY: It's a pretty common problem though. It's
25 not just in Holy Cross.

26

27 MR. TIKIUN: Thank you, Roger.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda is d. commercial
30 fishery, Kuskokwim, Charlie Burkey. Charlie and Rich Cannon.

31

32 (Whispered conversation)

33

34 MR. BURKEY: Ready?

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

37

38 MR. BURKEY: Okay. Mr. Chairman, Council members, my
39 name is Charlie Burkey. I'm the Kuskokwim area management
40 biologist for the Commercial Fisheries Division of the Alaska
41 Department of Fish and Game.

42

43 The last time I spoke before you, I gave basically an
44 overview of the geographical -- the fishery and the different
45 assessment projects. A quick review, the Kuskokwim area
46 stretches from Cape Newenham up to just above the Naskanak (ph)
47 Peninsula, which is just above Nelson Island. All the waters
48 that drain into the Bering -- or the -- yeah, the Bering Sea,
49 into Kuskokwim Bay. It includes primarily the Kuskokwim River,
50 the Kanektok, Arolik and the Goodnews Rivers.

1 There are four commercial fishing districts in the
2 Kuskokwim area. The biggest one is the lower Kuskokwim from
3 Tuluksak down to Eek. Most of the fishing effort and catch
4 occurs in that district. A smaller district up above from
5 Kalskag to Chuathbaluk, a very small -- very little fishing
6 effort compared to the lower Kuskokwim. And then the two
7 districts in Kuskokwim Bay: District 4, Quinhagak, around the
8 Quinhagak area, and District 5, which is the Goodnews Bay.

9
10 Okay. I'll go into the commercial fishery. I handed
11 out yesterday, I gave to John Andrew to hand to you guys a
12 seven-page report. Yes. The title is similar -- something
13 like preliminary 1998 Kuskokwim area salmon -- commercial
14 salmon fisheries summary. And I'll be just basically
15 summarizing that as I go along here.

16
17 In 1998 the Kuskokwim commercial salmon fishery,
18 Kuskokwim area, began on June the 15th. The first opening was
19 down in Quinhagak District, W-4, and then it ended on September
20 the 7th with openings -- the last openings were in Quinhagak
21 and Goodnews Bay districts on September the 7th. 707 permit
22 holders participated in the fisheries this year. That's in the
23 whole Kuskokwim area. That's relatively low. It's not the
24 lowest. The lowest -- well, it's the second lowest since 1973,
25 and the only year since then that was lower was last year that
26 had -- that we had about 704, 703 permit holders.

27
28 The chinook catch, now this is area wide, all five --
29 all four districts. The chinook catch was 44,192. That's 18
30 percent below the recent ten-year average, the average catch in
31 the last ten years. The sockeye catch in all four districts
32 was 129,449. That's 21 percent below average. The chum salmon
33 catch was 267,059, which is approximately half. It's
34 approximately half the recent ten-year average. And the coho
35 catch was 311,910, which was approximately -- also
36 approximately half the recent -- most recent ten-year average.

37
38 The below average catch of chum salmon is due primarily
39 to a very low return of five-year old chum salmon in the
40 Kuskokwim River. As a result of this low return of chum
41 salmon, the fishery was very conservatively managed. There
42 were only five openings. There were five openings during the
43 chum salmon season, which is approximately the last half of
44 June and most of July, the first three weeks or so of July.
45 There were two four-hour and three six-hour periods during that
46 time, and an average -- normal quote (ph) -- about an average
47 fishing schedule over the last ten years would have been
48 approximately nine to ten six-hour periods would have been an
49 average fishing schedule. But since the chum salmon run was so
50 poor, it's -- a lot of it had to do with the -- this five-year-

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1 old returns from the 19- -- the disastrously poor 1993
2 escapements still lingering there and it's still affecting us
3 in the future. Or it's affected us this year.

4
5 The chinook and sockeye salmon catches were also below
6 average, and that's primarily due to the below average fishing
7 time, because of the extreme -- because of the poor chum run.
8 I'll get more -- I'll talk more about escapements later on
9 after I talk about the commercial fishery.

10
11 Then the coho salmon season started in late July, and
12 unfortunately we also experienced a very low coho salmon run,
13 below average. The fishing time -- as a result, the fishing
14 time was -- still stayed very conservative. There were seven
15 fishing periods during coho season. The average is more like
16 ten or 12 in an average year. The catch of cohos during these
17 fishing periods, in six of the seven fishing periods, the catch
18 was below average, as was the case in most of the chum salmon
19 in most periods during the chum salmon season.

20
21 The ex-vessel value, that's value of the catch to the
22 fisherman, paid to the fisherman by processors, was \$1.6
23 million this year. That's approximately one-third the average
24 over the last ten years. That was due to the poor runs,
25 limited fishing time, and the low prices combined. And then as
26 a result of that, as everyone is aware, the Kuskokwim area was
27 declared an economic disaster because of the extremely poor --
28 extremely low value of the commercial harvest.

29
30 Let me see. In District 4, Quinhagak, just to give you
31 some quick -- the chinook salmon catch was above average, 15
32 percent above the recent ten-year average. The sockeye catch
33 was -- the sockeye catch was 30 percent below average, and the
34 chum catch was 18 percent below average. We believe that the
35 primary cause for this was the effort, the effort levels, the
36 fishing effort levels during the sockeye and chum season were
37 lower, quite a bit lower than they normally are. The catch per
38 fisherman was about average, but the total number of fishermen
39 was well below average, so therefore the catches came out below
40 average. Then during the coho season that turned around.
41 Effort in W-4 came back to normal levels, about -- near normal
42 levels, and the catch was -- the catch was 28 percent above
43 average, so they had a good chinook and coho catch, and a
44 slightly lower than average sockeye to chum catch. But if you
45 look at catch per fisherman, it was about average, because
46 there were less fisherman than normally fish there.

47
48 The same thing happened in District W-5 basically. The
49 chinook catch was 37 percent above average. We had a real -- a
50 much stronger than normal chinook return there. The sockeye

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1 catch was 32 percent below average, and the chum catch was 20
2 percent below average. And this is the same -- the same
3 reasons apply here that applied in District 4, Quinhagak, was
4 the effort, fishing effort during the sockeye chum season, or
5 sockeye season was below average. Coho salmon season came
6 along, effort was about average, catch was ten percent below
7 average, so just slightly below average.

8
9 I'll turn to escapements, talk about escapements. In
10 the Kuskokwim River, the escapement goal for chum salmon was
11 achieved at the Aniak sonar, which is our -- which is one of
12 the primary chum producers in the Kuskokwim drainage, but that
13 was only done -- that was -- it was not achieved -- it was not
14 -- it was barely achieved basically. It was really close, nip
15 and tuck all year long. Due primarily to our conservative
16 fishing schedule, we were able to achieve our escapement goal
17 there.

18
19 We also have some relatively limited effort -- limited
20 information from the cooperative projects we operate. We
21 operate three cooperative projects in the river. A weir in
22 George River with KNA, a weir at Tatlwiksuk River with KNA, and
23 a counting tower on the Kwethluk with AVCP. Unfortunately, we
24 had very high water levels this year on the Kuskokwim,
25 extremely high. Some of the highest we've seen in over 10
26 years, 15 years, and as a result, these projects were not able
27 to operate during a large portion of the salmon run, so data
28 from them is pretty preliminary, pretty -- it's not complete by
29 any means. But the information, the counts the days we did get
30 tend to corroborate that the escapement of chum salmon was
31 below average when compared to previous years where we counted
32 fish on the same days, the same time period.

33
34 Chinook salmon. Chinook salmon we believe the
35 escapement there this year on the Kusko River was below
36 average. The escapement objective was not reached in five of
37 six area streams so just one of six streams that we surveyed
38 had the number of chinook salmon above our escapement
39 objectives.

40
41 We have no information on District W-4 escapements. We
42 have no good solid numbers or data on that because of the high
43 turbid waters did not allow us to operate the tower that we
44 operate cooperatively with Kanektok Village, the government
45 there, association.

46
47 And then in District W-5, the Goodnews Bay district,
48 the escapement objectives were achieved. We have a weir down
49 there, the Goodnews River weir. We have a weir there. And the
50 escapement objectives were achieved in -- for all species

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1 there.

2

3 So basically below average catches on most -- in most
4 cases, except for chinooks and coho in the Bay. Very low ex-
5 vessel values, therefore an economic disaster declaration. And
6 for the most part, escapement levels were achieved.

7

8 I have to backtrack. Escapement of coho salmon in the
9 Kuskokwim River, we -- the final numbers from the Kogruklu
10 weir up on the Holitna, the escapement objective of 25,000 was
11 not quite achieved. We -- the final numbers of the escapement
12 of 24,000 so it's approximately four percent below that
13 objective. Close, but not quite. And a reflection of the --
14 due in part to the very conservative -- one of the most
15 conservative fishing schedules we've ever undertaken on the
16 river here during coho season.

17

18 That concludes my presentation on the Kuskokwim area,
19 Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John?

22

23 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah,
24 Charlie despite the low abundance of your salmon on the
25 Kuskokwim, did the people in those outlying villages get all
26 their subsistence needs, or maybe there would be some that
27 didn't get all of their subsistence needs there, but most --
28 probably most of the people in the villages there along the
29 Kuskokwim got their fishing needs on salmon?

30

31 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Hanson, we're doing the
32 subsistence surveys right now, and one of the questions, of
33 course, we ask people is how was subsistence fishing for you
34 this past year? We ask that for each species: chinook, chum,
35 sockeye, and coho. So -- but at your next meeting, we can tell
36 you definitely what the responses were to those questions.

37

38 Now, although we don't do surveys in season, because
39 we're not out in the villages during the fishing season, we do
40 get input from people, we do check in with folks, we do hear
41 from representatives of subsistence fishermen and elders during
42 the salmon working group meetings. They bring information in.
43 And I think what we can say at this point is that we haven't
44 heard specifically that villages were having trouble getting
45 their subsistence needs met, so we think -- at this point we
46 think that things were okay here.

47

48 There were some difficulties with people catching fish
49 up river, and specifically I'm thinking Sleetmute, Red Devil,
50 Stoney River and Lime Village. That was associated with the

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1 high water that Charlie referenced earlier. High water.
2 People were seeing more logs and debris coming down around the
3 4th of July than they were seeing at spring break up, which
4 made it real difficult for net fishing, and impossible for fish
5 wheels. So there were some times there when fishing was very
6 difficult, and, you know, we're hoping that we -- when we get
7 our surveys done, we'll find that people were able to get out
8 and get some fish. I think we're going to see -- I'm expecting
9 I guess to see some harvest that are down in some communities.
10 I think the lower Kuskokwim over all fared relatively well and
11 about normal for subsistence catches though.

12
13 MR. HANSON: Well, how about none of the upper part was
14 closed for subsistence?

15
16 MR. COFFING: No, there were no subsistence closures on
17 the Kuskokwim at all this year, except for the normal closures
18 around commercial fishing, so there were no closures on the
19 Kuskokwim. There were some on the upper Yukon, but not on the
20 Kuskokwim.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert, then Lester next.

23
24 MR. NICK: Charlie, I know I've expressed my concerns
25 to you in more ways -- more avenues than this morning before.
26 In looking back to this past summer, from my point of view as
27 the harvester of the resources being discussed here, weather
28 plays a factor to when -- to the effort and then when people go
29 out to fish. We know that it was a wet summer, high water, so
30 I can understand the effort here and by the number of permits
31 that went out to fish during these openings. And as I recall
32 during the chum -- I mean, the silver season, sockeye season,
33 every morning between the hours of 6:00 and 8:30, you know,
34 there's a network of communication that goes from the Yukon to
35 the Kuskokwim to Bethel. There's a number of us that converse,
36 say good morning, and wish everybody else a good day, but at
37 the same time I communicate with other fishermen. I usually
38 ask in the summertime almost every morning, or every day,
39 through that means where the fish are, you know, how abundant
40 the fish are. But in last summer during the sockeye season,
41 every morning I was talking to Dan Nelson and Carl Mutson down
42 in Napakiak to see how they're going, and then Tuntutuliak fish
43 camp, and Miluks (ph) down in Tuntutuliak.

44
45 At the time when numbers seemed to be the most, the
46 weather was the worst for fishing conditions. Mother Nature
47 balances things sometimes by its actions, and maybe by those
48 bad weather allow the escapement, or marginal, you know,
49 escapement of those species.

50

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1 But my other question is in regards, you know, since
2 we're talking about commercial fishing in regards to the
3 working group, relationship between yourself, there was times
4 when the working group knew the same information that I did
5 about the fish in the river, has recommended some fishing
6 periods, but management decisions overruled those
7 recommendations. And in fact at some point there was
8 expressions by fishermen that maybe we should do away with the
9 working group idea and go with a regulatory opening periods for
10 commercial harvest. I just wanted to express my thoughts,.....

11
12 MR. BURKEY: Yeah, thank you. Thank you.

13
14 MR. NICK:my views as to your.....

15
16 MR. BURKEY: Right.

17
18 MR. NICK:why your figures are the way they are.

19
20 MR. BURKEY: Right. Yeah, well, Mr. Chairman, I'll
21 just -- there wasn't -- really wasn't a question there, but
22 I'll respond a little bit here, that, you know, most fishermen
23 I think know, and the Department even knows, that during
24 significant weather events, bad weather, the fish will move.
25 That's pretty common knowledge and it seems to be the case.
26 And maybe it did play a part in achieving our escapement goals
27 this year, and maybe it played a part in fishing, fishermen not
28 doing as well as they have in past years maybe when the weather
29 was better, or conditions were better. There's so many
30 different variables involved, water level, wind weather,
31 direction, just all kinds of things, so -- but the proof is in
32 -- is on the spawning grounds, and we achieved our escapement
33 goals, at least where we were able to evaluate them.
34 Unfortunately, we're not able to evaluate them as many places
35 as we'd all like to, due to limited funds. Hopefully if the
36 Federal Government gets involved, maybe they'll help us out
37 with our evaluation needs. But the bottom line is, is we did
38 make our escapement goals. There were times when the fish were
39 plentiful. And we heard about it a lot.

40
41 The Department, just to set the record straight, make
42 sure, we were -- you know, we were -- a lot of people give
43 input to the working group, a lot of public people give put to
44 the working group, and they make recommendations. Everybody
45 has their views on the fisheries should be operated and run,
46 and the working groups takes them all in and we all mull them
47 together and we sit down together and we all mull them
48 together, and we debate back and forth what's important, what's
49 not, what weight to put on what information, because sometimes
50 we get conflicting information. This year the Department did

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1 not veto any formal recommendations by the working group. The
2 recommendations that the working group voted on and passed to
3 make to the Department, we accepted them. I'm sure that, you
4 know, it wasn't the -- it wasn't what -- you know, every
5 working group member didn't always agree. That's normal when
6 you have more than two people discussing something, but that's
7 the working group process.

8
9 The working group was -- the working group was
10 established by the Board of Fish due to the public going to the
11 working group and saying that the public -- that we need to be
12 more involved with management of fish, salmon on the Kuskokwim
13 River, and the working group brought in as many groups of
14 people together, many constituencies of users of salmon
15 together, and they said, okay, you guys are all going to sit
16 down in season, sometimes two or three times a week, and you're
17 going to go over all the information, and you're going to make
18 recommendations to the Department on how it should be done.
19 And it's a very effective and very useful public process that
20 gets public knowledge to the Department, and helps the
21 Department get our knowledge to the public. It's a two-way
22 flow. I think it benefits us both.

23
24 So doing away with the working group, that would be
25 going back a step to where we were in the early -- in the mid
26 -- in the late 80s. And quite frankly, speaking as a manager
27 who worked with the working group, I would recommend against
28 it.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Following.....

31
32 MR. NICK: If I could just make one quick kind of
33 comment. The group, the Council has an alternate system that's
34 in place now. We have Mr. Hanson and Mr. Tikiun as alternates
35 sitting in to have this many member -- this much participation.
36 We know that last summer there were two meetings that were
37 canceled, did not occur, and as a result an opening did not
38 occur immediately, because there was no quorum. Maybe the
39 working group can have an alternate system for those members
40 that are unable to attend.

41
42 MR. BURKEY: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Nick, we do have
43 -- you know, we do -- we have members, and each member has an
44 alternate, and the reason we have an alternate is in case the
45 member can't be there, we can get a quorum, and we -- you're
46 right. We failed to reach quorum a couple meetings this hear,
47 and it's a problem -- it is a problem, and the working group
48 needs to resolve it. And, thank you, yes.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester?

1 MR. L. WILDE: Prior to the salmon season, both
2 commercially and subsistence wise, there was a projection put
3 out of average to above average return of salmon. And your
4 historical data, which came out after the poor return stated
5 that due to the poor returns of past years, where the adults of
6 the salmon are concerned, was one of the reasons why we had a
7 poor return. I think my -- I just wanted to make a comment
8 that if you do have historical data that states that you did
9 have a poor parent year, why does the projections go out
10 otherwise? We spent a lot of money collecting that data, and I
11 think it should be used before any projections are made,
12 because some of the activities prior to the salmon season are
13 taken as gospel on the word that's put out, you know. You have
14 -- you've been historically -- and when I say you, you know who
15 I mean, have been right when you used your historical data.
16 You know, I mean, why was there a deviation, or was there
17 deviation this year as to the projection?

18
19 MR. CANNON: Lester? Mr. Chairman, yes, I'd like.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

22
23 MR. CANNON:to just respond to Lester's question.
24 You've asked a very good question, Lester, and one that we're
25 looking at, too, is that the way we worked with our salmon
26 management, both the Yukon and Kuskokwim, is that we largely
27 are looking at the spawning grounds to the best of our ability.
28 The management strategy is to try to put a certain number of
29 fish back so we have seed stock, so that we'll have future
30 returns, and we've done a good job of doing that. A lot of
31 sacrifices have been made.

32
33 This year was very sobering, because although we've
34 done that, we didn't get the returns. And what we have to do
35 is look at a bigger picture, not just the spawning grounds, but
36 the whole ecosystem, the whole ocean system, and the spawning
37 grounds that these fish use to produce their offspring and grow
38 them up so that they can return. So we all have to -- I think
39 the answer to your question is, and one that we all realize is
40 going on, is that it's not just the spawning grounds, it's the
41 whole ocean system and the spawning grounds, the fisheries that
42 occur on the oceans, the changing ocean patterns, ocean
43 temperature patterns. All those things affect our salmon. So
44 we have to look at a bigger picture.

45
46 MR. L. WILDE: We realize that, but the excuse was
47 later on that was used as to the mistake in projection was the
48 poor parent year, the use of -- you know, that didn't come out
49 until much later in the season after the salmon season was over.
50 And I -- the reason why I mention that, is because I kept track

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1 of what the predictions of Fish and Game were at the time. And
2 if -- what I couldn't figure out was why when they -- if you
3 had a poor return in those years that pertain to this year, why
4 you projected -- but that's.....

5
6 MR. CANNON: Lester, which stock are you talking about,
7 on the Kuskokwim or Yukon?

8
9 MR. L. WILDE: It was in the newspaper, oh, on the
10 Yukon.

11
12 MR. CANNON: On the Yukon.

13
14 MR. BURKEY: Okay. Yeah. I'm a little confused,
15 because that doesn't apply to the Kuskokwim. We -- on the
16 Kuskokwim for this year we projected a below-average chum
17 return based on the poor returns in '93, and that's exactly
18 what we got. Even we get lucky. Coho salmon though, we
19 projected an average to above average return of coho salmon
20 based on the -- based primarily on the parent year escapements.
21 Well, for some reason that we can't tell you why, we don't know
22 why, we had a below average return of coho salmon. And we're
23 not going to go back and say the escapement was bad, because it
24 appeared to be adequate. So -- but then I can't speak for the
25 Yukon.

26
27 MR. CANNON: Well, I'm going to talk about the Yukon.

28
29 MR. BURKEY: Yeah, he'll -- he can speak for the Yukon.
30 I can't speak for the Yukon, but so you're aware, that's what
31 happened on the Kuskokwim. That's what happened this year on
32 the Kuskokwim compared to what our projection was, or what our
33 outlook was. And we start up -- when we give people our
34 outlooks, we start off and say, this is a very, very general
35 outlook. It is very -- it is not very refined, it is very
36 broad. And by the Kuskokwim -- or our outlooks, what we give
37 people are below average, average, and above average. That's
38 as fine as we can break it out on our outlooks, and that
39 includes a very broad range of harvest possibilities. So
40 please don't think that the Kuskokwim River outlook is
41 something that is finely tuned and very precise. It is very --
42 it's a very general, and it's primarily based on brood year,
43 the parent year escapements, and because we don't have --
44 because we don't know how many salmon swim up the Kuskokwim
45 River of any species, we can't count them all. We have -- we
46 aren't able to count them all, we cannot -- you know, we cannot
47 give you a very good -- any more precise.....

48
49 MR. L. WILDE: Please don't think I'm picking you. I'm
50 just throwing out.....

0176

1 MR. BURKEY: Well, yeah.

2
3 MR. CANNON: Right.

4
5 MR. L. WILDE:I was just throwing out a fact.....

6
7 MR. CANNON: Yeah.

8
9 MR. L. WILDE:that was stated.

10
11 MR. CANNON: Yeah. Right. Lester, two -- one or two
12 things, and I don't know what it is. I mean, if you got it out
13 of the newspaper, you know, you never know.

14
15 MR. L. WILDE: Well, actually it came out from the
16 mouth of one of the people that was in the higher echelon of
17 your Department.

18
19 MR. CANNON: Well, that doesn't necessarily help
20 either, but the thing.....

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. CANNON: They can be wrong, too. And secondly, you
25 know, the thing is, as Charlie said, these projections are
26 really just 00 you know, it's like a weather report. We use
27 certain indicators, but often as we saw this year, they're not
28 accurate.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before I recognize next, one of the
31 problems of -- I'm going to put my hat on, this means the time
32 have to be speed up. But Bill McCann?

33
34 MR. McCANN: Yeah, I'm one of the working group board.
35 At the past years, this years been a little bit better working
36 with Fish and Game. But it has to be correction in there
37 between working group and them. There's a little bit wrong.
38 Little bit. It has to be corrected, because one of the
39 correction should be like working group coming from the
40 villages with their outboard motors, boat, using their gas, and
41 they meet all day long here with no stipend, per diem or
42 nothing. And they have to feed themselves, and very -- buy
43 their gas and everything. Look at us. We've got something for
44 this today. Every time we meet some place, corporation, well,
45 I make little money some way. They give me back what I use.
46 That should be corrected. Because they should see that.
47 Sometimes I think they're using us for our good name. Because
48 one of the boards quit just because of that, from Kipnuk. But
49 this year is little bit cooperate -- they've cooperated with us
50 a little bit more, a little bit more. Before that we used to

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1 vote -- quorum vote to open the season. Fishing. Or vote us
2 out. After we vote.

3
4 But this year's a little better. That's why I'm not
5 mad at you, but I'm thinking that that should be correct. We
6 should work together. That's my main point. If we don't work
7 together, we're going to talk about him or something, somebody
8 else. We're there for work together. If we make mistake that
9 should be corrected. We're trying to work together to provide
10 problems. That's one thing -- sometimes I think they're using
11 us for our good name by reporting to places. That's why that
12 should be work -- we should work together. Try and -- not to
13 try and use somebody else for a good name. I'm not that way.
14 I'm a bad man. I talk what I want to talk. But I try to do
15 the best I can to help the people all my life. Sometimes I sit
16 here with nothing sometimes. I don't care. But I want to help
17 the people. That's why I'm saying that the people coming from
18 the villages should have at least pay their gas, or pay them or
19 something, because they're -- they got no money. Fish and Game
20 have a grant from some place else to do the work. All of these
21 guys have little grants to do the work. Let's do that work
22 honestly.

23
24 And one other thing that we didn't used to like it, the
25 -- if we vote and these guys goes out, decides what they're
26 going to do, leaving us out. They should decide in front of us
27 what they're going to do, you're going to close it or open it.
28 What's secret about going out, need a little break, and come
29 back and, gee, that work. I don't think that's right.
30 Everybody should hear what you're going to do. I mean, it
31 should be corrected and work honestly to everybody, because you
32 need this help. We report from the villages subsistence and
33 everything. We collect this for you all the time to make
34 reports, good reports, try to make good reports. Think about
35 that. You might not like me, but I'm not going to stop to see
36 it. Because I know if something happens, something wrong, I've
37 got to correct it. Like I said, I'm a bad man myself. I talk.
38 I don't care. I talk. I'm trying to help the people.

39
40 That's all. Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you, Bill. You sounds
43 like a sergeant of arms right now.

44
45 And next I'm going to recognize Rich Cannon.

46
47 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going
48 to say a few words about the Yukon fishery this past summer.
49 Most of you are very much aware of how that fishery operates,
50 and how the fishery is organized by districts similar to the

0178

1 Kuskokwim, although it's a bigger river, so the fishery
2 basically can be divided into the lower Yukon, the first three
3 districts, goes up to about the Anvik River is the lower Yukon.
4 And then the upper river districts, a much larger part of the
5 river. And there are commercial fisheries occur on the Tanana
6 which is the southern, if you'd just kind of point that out,
7 the southern -- I'm sure you're familiar with all this
8 geography. And then the -- and then in the mainstem is
9 District 5(A) and then there are commercial fisheries in
10 Canada.

11
12 So this is what happened this summer, let me put this
13 one up. I think we're all aware that the Yukon had one --
14 probably the most disastrous commercial fisheries in history,
15 at least since statehood. We saw with chinook which is the
16 most valuable king salmon fishery in the State, highest value,
17 highest oil content. That fishery has been very important to
18 the Yukon River. It was the lowest harvest we've seen since
19 the records have been kept. And the run came back, surprised
20 us all. It was disastrously low. And we were not anticipating
21 that. We had escapements in both of the major parent years,
22 and as we saw that run coming in, and we initially thought it
23 was very late, but then -- it was late, but also very weak.
24 And our harvest was only about 40,000 chinook in our commercial
25 fisheries.

26
27 The summer chum run was -- although the markets in chum
28 are very poor throughout the state, this year not only were
29 markets poor, but our run was also poor. And as a result, our
30 harvest was again very, very low. When I throw the next figure
31 up, you'll be able to see that comparison a little better. But
32 again only about 30,000 fish harvested in the lower Yukon, and
33 the upper Yukon also very, very low harvest, as well as in
34 Canada.

35
36 Fall chum, the returns were also very, very poor,
37 comparable to the 1993 return. I think all of you remember
38 that year. It was often referred to as the year of the chum
39 crash. And that was one of the parent years for the fish that
40 came back this year. And again fall chum were so low this year
41 that we had no commercial fishery, and we had to restrict
42 subsistence fisheries on the Yukon.

43
44 So let's look at the next figure. It's kind of a
45 summary.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before you move that.....

48
49 MR. CANNON: Yes.

50

0179

1 MR. BURKEY: Do you want me to put that one back?

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: But it back there. Rich, that
4 Canadian 390 chinooks, that for all user groups, 390?

5

6 MR. CANNON: Commercial. Commercial.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Just the commercial?

9

10 MR. CANNON: Yeah. They had a very, very short season.
11 And their aboriginal fishery continued. They -- most of our
12 subsistence fisheries, put this one up, for chinook, people I
13 think from what we heard in season in the lower Yukon, people
14 got enough for subsistence. In some of the upper Yukon areas,
15 people felt they were a little short of chinook. It was sort
16 of mixed. We go a mixed message on that. Some villages said
17 they could have use more, and the fishing -- Obviously the
18 fishing was poor, because there weren't a lot of fish in the
19 river.

20

21 Up at the top of this graphic, you'll see what our
22 projections were for 1998, and that's what Lester was talking
23 about. This came right out of our Board report, and management
24 plan. You were thinking -- looking at chinook harvest of about
25 88,000 to 108,000 chinook. And again it was half of that. In
26 looking back on it, we probably took too many chinook. We
27 probably over-harvested in our king fishery given what happened
28 on the spawning grounds.

29

30 Summer chum, again our projection, we thought we could
31 probably take more of an average harvest, which would be
32 somewhere between 500 and 800,000, and we took obviously far
33 less than that, about 20,000, so that was also a big problem.

34

35 And fall chum, we had high hopes for our fall chum
36 fishery. I mean, the guys here that are on your Council that
37 worked on the Yukon panel, and with our YRDFA group there, have
38 -- we've been making a lot of sacrifices, the fishermen have,
39 on trying to rebuild those stocks, and we thought this year we
40 were going to start seeing some pay-off from that. But again
41 it was just -- it was -- it was as bad as the '93 return. And
42 we had no commercial fishery, and subsistence restrictions, and
43 escapements were very poor. I've kind of summarized what's
44 happened with each of the stocks there, and it's what I've been
45 relating to you. Chinook, worse commercial harvest since
46 statehood, worse subsistence in some areas, and poor
47 escapements.

48

49 Summer chum, similar to '93. Commercial harvest, very,
50 very poor. And poor escapements. Summer chum, I did not hear

0180

1 a lot of concerns at this point, now, we'll know more after our
2 subsistence surveys are done, but I didn't hear a lot of major
3 concerns about subsistence. Now a couple reasons that we've
4 through -- historically we've seen that it can happen, people
5 know they've got more fishing coming with the fall season, and
6 so they may not at that point -- people don't like to complain
7 usually, and they may feel that there's more fish coming, but
8 unfortunately the fall chum didn't come either. Come back
9 either. And so we had to have restrictions. We went down to
10 in most of the river just to one 24-hour period per week, and
11 that's not a lot of fishing for people that are trying to put
12 up fish for the winter.

13
14 And coho, that run was not as bad. Actually that
15 wasn't -- it looks like a pretty good run. Unfortunately that
16 run is managed with the fall chum. And so if the fall chum are
17 week, and the coho may be better, people still get restricted,
18 because we're trying to protect the fall chum run.

19
20 People are asking the question -- well, first of all,
21 I'll just stop. Are there any questions about this, kind of
22 this overview of the fishery? I want to talk about some of the
23 reasons why people think this -- what might be going on.

24
25 Okay. I'll just mention this: Again we're going to
26 have to look out into the oceans now to begin to look for
27 answers. It's not just in the spawning grounds.

28
29 What this figure is, is a very -- sort of a
30 representation of what happens to the young fish as they're
31 coming out of the rivers. And this is -- it applies to the
32 Kuskokwim, too. and I want to say right up front we don't know
33 a lot about this. I mean, these fish are very, very small when
34 they go out into the ocean, especially the chum, and we simply
35 know this, because people have been out and running different
36 sample, different nets in the water, and they'll sometimes
37 catch the young fish, and so we record this information. And
38 then after a long period of time we get an idea of where they
39 see them at different times of the year. What's thought to
40 happen is that as they come out of the plumes, the big river
41 plumes, then the -- in the Yukon River, the three major mouths,
42 and the Kuskokwim, they're carried away in those plumes, and
43 they may go to the north. But then the fish seem to swing back
44 and follow the coast line of Alaska along the Alaska Peninsula.
45 And then moving out into the Gulf of Alaska, they may --
46 they'll be picked up as they're growing and feeding, they'll be
47 picked up by the Alaska Gyre then that moves in a counter
48 clockwise direction. Also, there's some evidence that they may
49 be actually moving in the Bering Sea Gyre, which also moves in
50 a counter clockwise direction.

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1 Now, some of the concerns that are raised, and I want
2 to talk about some of the impacts that may occur to these fish
3 as they're moving out in the ocean. One thing that you're
4 hearing more about is the lack of food. Now, you've all heard
5 about global warming. It's been in the newspapers and you hear
6 it on television. We're starting to see that happening in our
7 oceans. The air temperatures and the oceans, they are
8 connected. We all know that. We're seeing warmer water now
9 further north. Two to five degrees temperature differences
10 from what we've seen in the past.

11
12 As this warmer water begins circulating into our areas
13 where our young fish rear, then we have to look at what happens
14 to the food chain. The people who study the zooplankton, the
15 little -- small, little shrimps and often the larval fish that
16 are up in the top part of the water, and they're often just
17 carried by the currents, and this is what our fish feed on as
18 they're growing up. They're down. Those numbers are down.
19 The standing crop of zooplankton is decreased in these oceans.
20 And that feeds the whole food chain. That's the basic food for
21 the whole food chain. Okay.

22
23 Now, what we don't know is how long that's going to
24 continue. There's two things going on. One, there's this
25 general ocean warming, okay. And people refer to that as --
26 they call it decadal change. That means over like a ten-year
27 period, a decade. They call it a regional temperature shift.
28 These are these longer-term things. Then they'll talk about El
29 Nino. El Nino is set up, that's more of a short-term thing.
30 It can be set up by the way the winds are blowing at the
31 tropics. Okay. Now, what seems to happen is, and it affects
32 the way that the water circulates down in along the equator,
33 and it can affect the food availability for the fisheries
34 there.

35
36 Well, when you have these long-term warming situations,
37 this global warming, these El Ninos seem to intensify. They
38 get worse. And you can see them farther north. Okay. They
39 start affecting our fisheries. The evidence of this, this is
40 interesting, this -- you know, there are now albacore tuna
41 fisheries off Kodiak Island. People are seeing these big
42 sunfish. If you ever go to Hawaii, you see these big sunfish.
43 Those big round fish, that are only more -- they're more
44 tropical. They're finding these now in the Gulf of Alaska.
45 And in the stomachs of king salmon, they're finding anchovies
46 that we usually see off the coast of California. So that's
47 proof that this is happening.

48
49 Because of these changes in the food chain, we're
50 worried that it can affect our fish for a longer period of

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1 time, but we don't know that. This is new for us. This is a
2 new thing. And people now -- one of the things that was
3 presented at this fisheries conference in Anchorage, American
4 Fisheries Society, they had speakers there talking about going
5 back and talking to native people about their history, what
6 they remember about these changes over time, because that's
7 going to be very valuable to know as we try to look into the
8 future as to what may be happening.

9
10 From our standpoint, this is all new. We don't know
11 what to expect next summer. King salmon is a concern to us,
12 because both year clas- -- major year classes were affected.
13 They were out in the ocean at the same time, and we're worried
14 about next summer. Okay.

15
16 I'll just stop and just throw it open to some questions
17 I guess.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before someone recognize, before I
20 recognize John, I want to know from the Council here, there's a
21 2:00 o'clock flight to any areas. If you have -- make
22 reservation already, you would be excused. We're going to
23 continue until we're finished. We're not going to stop for
24 lunch. And also that I think if you report, make sure that --
25 take more highlights than take the whole thing. Go ahead,
26 John.

27
28 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah,
29 Rich, you're always confusing me. Even when I was on the Board
30 of Fish. You're the worst Department personnel that you
31 confuse people. No, I'm just kidding you.

32
33 MR. CANNON: I know.

34
35 MR. HANSON: Okay. You're talking about them graphs
36 that you showed. And where the smolts come out of the native
37 streams, and they go over the Aleutian Chain into that funnel,
38 go to the Gulf of Alaska, and go out and they're taken along
39 the way. Katherine, I can't remember her name. Crop, was it?
40 She's the -- I guess she's the one that studies the migration
41 of fish. She gave a presentation to the Board of Fish on the
42 migration routes. She didn't give us this one right here.
43 What she gave the Board was when smolt come out of the natal
44 streams like the Yukon, the Kuskokwim or up Norton Sound, they
45 come out and they go on the west side of the Aleutian Chain.
46 They go clear out to the donut hole, and that's where they just
47 migrate and grow.

48
49 The ones that come to the Gulf of Alaska are the fall
50 chum. They come in through that, what we call False Pass,

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1 going through there and go to the Gulf of Alaska, and they mill
2 around there and go to the donut hole to grow. When they come
3 back, they sort of -- when then they come back from the donut
4 hole, they go over to the Pacific Ocean, swim around, to where
5 people can take them. They mix in with Cook Inlet chinook,
6 Bristol Bay chinook, so by the time they get to the Barren
7 Islands, half of them are already taken.

8
9 And right after her, the guy that work for the
10 Department of Fish and Game who resigned, and Cook Inlet
11 Fisheries I think it was hired him. He's the guy that told us
12 exactly how AYK cohos, AYK fall chums and some summer chums,
13 they mingle with all these other species and go into Shelikof
14 Strait. That's where they get clobbered from the fishing. The
15 road is black and white. Me and Robin opened our eyes and
16 looked at you (ph).

17
18 So it's not too much of the climate in the ocean or
19 what you call the warm, I outlined two, three important aspects
20 when the disaster came to Emmonak, and they had called a public
21 hearing. And I wrote it on my paper and I gave it to them, and
22 told them to give one to the Governor. I don't know if the
23 Governor ever got it. Outlined what happened, because the
24 Department of Fish and Game in May, we had a meeting in
25 Mountain Village, told us our chinooks were going to be average
26 to above average, our chums were going to be the same. But it
27 turned out to be we had a disaster.

28
29 So on the food of the salmon, you knew darn well, and I
30 know, and these other fishermen know, for a long, long time
31 they've been dragging out there, and they're cleaning the
32 bottom of the oceans where the salmon eat while they're
33 growing, while they're coming back into the natal streams.
34 That's all cleaned out from them deep draggers that five
35 football fields long of a drag. Five football fields wide.
36 That's how big their drags are I was told. I've never seen
37 one, only on TV. Those guys are just cleaning the bottom of
38 the ocean from all the vegetation that the salmon eat. If you
39 see where pollack is, you have king salmon, cohos, sockeye,
40 chums, all kinds of salmon. And then they just throw them
41 overboard. That's what make all this disaster too fast.

42
43 It's not the warmer switching around back to Alaska.
44 Alaska used to never freeze long, long time ago. Way before us
45 got here. Our ancestors were walking those lands, that's when
46 Alaska never use to freeze. Winter, summer. And then it
47 started freezing and the warmth went to those other parts of
48 U.S.

49
50 I'll just stop, 'cause there's too many guys want to

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1 talk.

2

3 MR. CANNON: Just I just -- what John's talking about
4 is correct, is that there is a lot of concern about trawlers
5 and draggers affecting this ecosystem that we were talking
6 about. And there's some evidence of that. I mean there -- a
7 lot of these small fish could be picked up in waters outside of
8 our boundaries, the U.S. boundaries, because they do travel
9 throughout the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.

10

11 I think one of the things we have to look at is
12 multiple effects, more than one thing happening to these fish
13 at the same time. And that can drive it down even faster. And
14 people are going to be arguing about, well, it was the fishing,
15 and the -- you know, is the problem. Other people are going to
16 say it's the contaminants, you know, the poisons that are in
17 the air and the water is the problem. Other people are going
18 to say it's global warming and these warming trends. Well, all
19 of those things may have an effect, but just think about it.
20 If they all are acting together, then does it make it worse?

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We agree. Robert?

23

24 MR. NICK: This will be just I guess primarily to
25 Charlie and Mike. Two weekends ago, I was up in Tuluksak for a
26 funeral, and there was a gentleman from Akiachak there, you
27 know, visiting Tuluksak for the same reason that I was. And we
28 started talking, and he told me that, that was on a Saturday,
29 not this past Saturday, but the one before, he said that week,
30 which would be -- put it to the last week of September, he
31 really got surprised by what he caught on his set net just
32 round the bend from Akiachak. He said he set a set net on the
33 afternoon, late afternoon. A short set net below Akiachak.
34 And the next day I guess, I don't know what he wanted to catch,
35 probably whitefish, but the next morning he checked it, and he
36 said he really got surprised. He had over 100 silver salmon on
37 that net. So he pulled it right out again, because, you know,
38 he didn't want silver salmon, but he had -- he was wondering
39 where they were -- why they were there, you know, end of
40 September.

41

42 But -- so I'd like to relate another comment I heard
43 last spring, early June. I came down by boat, and I stopped
44 over in Oscarville to pick up my nephew. And I had lunch over
45 at this old lady's house, Mrs. Stevens. She's probably in her
46 early 80s. And she was telling me that her son has been
47 catching a lot of king salmon in his set net. And they're
48 really fat. Rich. And then she commented about the weather,
49 how cold it's been, how water temperature is, how cold the
50 water is, and she made a comment that king salmon that she's

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1 cutting from her son's catch must be the kings for the Yukon
2 because they're so rich. She says they've never been that rich
3 here.

4
5 So I started thinking afterwards, you know, she was
6 right, the temperature was cooler at that particular time, the
7 water temperature was colder, because I know I was out there
8 feeling it, because I fish during May. I got to thinking that
9 maybe water temperature has something to do with how fish
10 travel in the waters. You know, they don't have visual dead
11 reckoning spots like humans do when they fly, so maybe the
12 temperature determines where they go to spawn. And I got --
13 she made me curious.

14
15 And this summer as the summer progressed, I started
16 hearing the low and almost nonexistent returns to the Yukon.
17 So she got me curious.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Rich?

20
21 MR. CANNON: That's very interesting. We've heard more
22 -- a lot of reports from people from Kotzebue north that have
23 seen more king salmon this year than they have remembered
24 seeing.

25
26 MR. NICK: One other -- just pointing out, I'll say no
27 more, but this fall I started hearing about some unexpected
28 harvest in the Southeast, unexpected chum runs, unexpected coho
29 runs. So that even got me more curious about the low numbers
30 here. Maybe fish do migrate according to habitat.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana, Rich. Thank you.

33
34 We do have one important on Counsel members and other
35 agency concerns. We do have one proposal that didn't arrive on
36 time when we're requesting for proposal. I would like to ask
37 Dave Fisher go over this proposal from Emmonak Council, Tribal
38 Council?

39
40 MR. FISHER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. As Steve Kovach and
41 Roger Seavoy talked about yesterday regarding the beavers in
42 Unit 18, this is a proposal from the Emmonak Tribal Council,
43 the Emmonak Tribal Elders. And what it proposes to do is to
44 change the beaver regulation in Game Management Unit 18. And
45 what they're looking at is a trapping season from July 1
46 through June 30th, and that a firearm may be used to take
47 beaver under a trapper license in Unit 18 throughout this open
48 season. And they're also -- they want to change the sealing
49 requirement, and they specify here that no person may possess
50 for transport from Alaska the untanned skin of a beaver,

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1 whether taken inside or outside the State unless the skin has
2 been sealed by an authorized representative of Fish and Game,
3 except in Unit 18 where the untanned skin of a beaver does not
4 need to be sealed, unless transported outside of the Unit.

5
6 One thing that Steve mentioned yesterday was we -- this
7 shouldn't be viewed as a depredation control method. The
8 Federal Subsistence Board will probably turn this proposal down
9 if it's viewed as that, but we probably take a look at it as
10 since the population of the beavers has increased, and they're
11 plentiful, and that they should be utilized more than what they
12 are. So any action or any recommendation that you people would
13 pass on would help. Steve, do you want to add anything to
14 that?

15
16 MR. KOVACH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The only thing I
17 would encourage the Council to do would be to -- there was some
18 good discussion yesterday with regards to some of the uses of
19 beaver that do take place, and the animals are not wasted, to
20 strengthen the proposal here as submitted by Emmonak, you know,
21 perhaps Council could review some of that discussion you had
22 yesterday and add that into this proposal to strengthen the
23 sections on why this proposal is being submitted, and, you
24 know, just to increase the justification of it, and downplay
25 some of the language that's in there that makes it sound more
26 like a beaver control measure. Like we said yesterday, there's
27 certainly no shortage of beavers in Unit 18, as many members of
28 the council commented on yesterday. They're finding beaver
29 dams in places they -- ten years ago they didn't even exist,
30 you know, which is an indication we've got a growing and
31 healthy beaver population out here. There's certainly no
32 shortage of beavers, and but there -- and just isn't a lot of
33 trapping activity directed at beavers at this time.

34
35 MR. NICK: I think I just want to make a comment here.
36 Having been a fur buyer for many years, I used to buy all kinds
37 of furs, and the person that I used to deal with was Ted Pappas
38 in Vancouver, you know, who owns Western Canadian Raw Furs Ops
39 (ph) and Sales, Ltd. He probably has the most knowledgeable
40 quality man on furs, maybe. I do agree that there is a market,
41 and the price that the market -- and that the price is all
42 right, you know, and the proper promotion is done for the
43 harvest of beaver pelts, or for the sale of beaver pelts, it
44 can be done. And the per- -- like I said, the gentleman's name
45 is Ted Pappas in Vancouver. He's a phone call away, he's got
46 an 800 number.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think what the question we're
49 looking for right now is, Dave, how we're going to deal with
50 this -- how the Council will -- should deal with this.

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1 MR. FISHER: Yeah. Perhaps -- Mr. Chairman, perhaps
2 you would want to modify the proposal and as Steve mentioned
3 strengthen up the point here why this regulation should
4 changed.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dave, only one problem I'm having,
7 only one -- I'm having one problem. We didn't -- we don't have
8 any representative from Emmonak Tribal Council. Because of
9 that, I don't know. They didn't give us authorization to
10 modify it or anything. I think Staff should contact Emmonak
11 Tribal Council how to deal with this. You know, it's -- I
12 think at this time that the Council here, that we don't know
13 how to deal with it while there's no representative from here
14 from Emmonak.

15
16 MR. FISHER: I can -- I would be willing to contact
17 Mr. Hamilton and chat with him about it, and maybe get him to
18 revise this justification and resubmit. Would that be -- and
19 then.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

22
23 MR. FISHER:possibly run it by Steve and Roger so
24 we're all kind of in agreement?

25
26 MR. SEAVOY: Yeah, I talked with Ted over the phone on
27 that, too, and some of his -- we fleshed out some of the ideas
28 together on that. So, yeah, that makes sense, and it won't
29 take up too much time.

30
31 MR. FISHER: Is that okay, Mr. Chairman?

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, I think we could leave it off
34 right now, because we couldn't take no action on it, because we
35 don't have no one represent here. How we will deal with it.
36 As soon as they modify it or fix it, you're going to have a
37 teleconference, or you're going to send it to Council to.....

38
39 MR. FISHER: Well, it would -- we would get him to
40 modify it if that's -- if he's willing to do that, and then it
41 would just go through the regular staff analysis and would be
42 reviewed at our next council meeting.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

45
46 MR. FISHER: One additional thing I will do is I will
47 -- after I talk with Mr. Hamilton, I will coordinate with you
48 and kind of let you know how we're doing.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

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1 MR. FISHER: Will that be okay?

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, that would be okay.

4

5 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

8

9 MR. NICK: I have a question for you and other council
10 members. The proposal here before us affects my area in the
11 identical way.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

14

15 MR. NICK:that is expressed here, and I'd like to
16 have an opportunity to bring it to the tribal council so the
17 people who lives in the tundra that have an identical problem,
18 and maybe have them support, or write a letter or resolution,
19 and maybe make review and make some recommendations also. So I
20 would like to.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You would have that opportunity I'm
23 pretty sure. Okay. So we just leave it on the table then? We
24 leave it on the table?

25

26 (Whispered conversation)

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Or you should talk to me in English so
29 I could understand it. I can't even read the.....

30

31 MR. FISHER: You don't have to act on it right now.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum. Yeah. Okay. Okay. We just
34 leave it on the table then until.....

35

36 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

39

40 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman?

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Willard?

43

44 MR. CHURCH: Yeah, we just received a proposal form
45 from Joshua Cleveland. He's the vice president for the IRA
46 Council in the Native Village of Quinhagak. And the proposal
47 that he submitted is for Unit 19 moose, which is Unit 19(A) and
48 19(B). Excuse me. What he has stated here is the rural
49 residents of Unit 18 within the Kuskokwim River drainage
50 upstream from and including Johnson River and rural residents

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1 of Unit 19. I guess what he is saying is that the two
2 communities of Quinhagak and Eek have customarily and
3 traditionally used this resource. He has not put a time period
4 for that in section six of the form. And the areas that he has
5 indicated for the harvest include Unit 19(B), a reference point
6 -- I think his writing here is illegible, I can't really make
7 it out. Reference point Shigaluk (ph), beginning from boundary
8 of 19(B) following north to the boundary of 19(B) at -- I can't
9 make out his writing here.

10
11 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, why can't we defer that to
12 the -- to staff.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Yeah.

15
16 MR. L. WILDE:and they could get ahold of the
17 people that are involved,.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We could do the same.....

20
21 MR. L. WILDE:get it so readable.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Maybe we could do the same thing as
24 that other proposal, make sure.....

25
26 MR. L. WILDE: (Indiscernible -- simultaneous speech)

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE:get more information and work on
29 it.

30
31 MS. McCLENAHAN: Could I just ask, Willard, could you
32 get together with me.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You could take a look.....

35
36 MR. CHURCH: Yeah.

37
38 MS. McCLENAHAN:and look -- pursue that.

39
40 MR. CHURCH: And I'll pass that on to Joshua, and then
41 he could work with you to get clarification on what he's
42 actually saying here.

43
44 MS. McCLENAHAN: Could you leave me a copy of your
45 proposal?

46
47 MR. CHURCH: Yes.

48
49 MS. McCLENAHAN: Okay.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Maybe you could give it to her. We
2 could do the same thing with that other one. Okay.

3
4 If there's any more council members or agencies, any
5 more other concerns?

6
7 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

10
11 MR. NICK: I seem to have a question. I don't know who
12 -- is Mike still here? I mean, I don't know who could respond
13 to it. Recently we heard that there's some land acquired, some
14 wet land acquired by the wildlife refuge for expansion of your
15 refuge system from the regional corporation of this area. I
16 mean, I guess there was some mention that it's near Hooper Bay,
17 Chevak and Scammon? The map that I was looking at yesterday to
18 try to delineate, you know, the location. It's no longer
19 there, but maybe whereabouts exactly is that area?

20
21 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair, I'm not real familiar with the
22 exact boundaries for what Mr. Nick's referring to as a land
23 exchange that Calista Corporation's been working with the
24 Department of Interior on doing. It hasn't been finalized. It
25 -- Congress has approved a bill and included it as a rider with
26 the Interior appropriations bill actually, and which has yet to
27 go before the President for -- to be signed. So it's -- you
28 know, it's not official yet. The Congress has put their okay
29 on it, but it's kind of a land exchange deal. What the exact
30 boundaries are, I really don't know on that. Mr. Paul Liberg
31 of our office, who is the assistant refuge manager here has
32 been working with those communities, and if you'd give him a
33 call, he'll be able to tell you exactly what's -- what the
34 boundaries are and how much land's involved there.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quiana.

37
38 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Go ahead.

41
42 MR. NICK: I'm commenting on what we just did, you
43 know, referring a couple proposals that are before us now that
44 came in late. Yesterday we indicated that proposals can be
45 submitted up until October 25th I believe? And that now it is
46 October 6 today? We've still got 19 days.

47
48 MR. CHURCH: October 7th.

49
50 MR. NICK: 7th?

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1 MR. CHURCH: 7th.

2

3 MR. NICK: Eighteen days yet for the deadline for
4 proposals to be submitted.

5

6 MS. McCLENAHAN: October 23rd.

7

8 MR. NICK: 23rd.

9

10 MS. McCLENAHAN: Uh-hum.

11

12 MR. NICK: So there's still 17 days for villages out
13 there to present proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board via
14 the Advisory Council. And then now these two came within the
15 time line allowed for villages to submit, but because of our
16 meeting prior to the deadline date, we're going to be putting
17 them back for another six months?

18

19 MS. McCLENAHAN: No, no, no. They're going forward in
20 the regular manner.

21

22 MR. NICK: Okay. Yeah. So this allows us to have
23 input. Okay. Got it.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay?

26

27 MR. NICK: Uh-hum.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana, Robert. (In Yup'ik) I'd like
30 to give Council every opportunity to ask question or something,
31 and that's the way I learn and -- 'cause I'm a slow learner.

32

33 This is the sixth year of we've been on, and we had
34 some people and organization behind us all the time and
35 supporting us. So at this time I think on behalf of Council
36 members, I want to thank these people that -- who has been
37 helping us during our process and during our hard time
38 starting, you know. We didn't quite know like understand our
39 procedures and everything. First member of Regional Advisory
40 Council Board that are being flexible in procedures during the
41 meetings. And also Office of Subsistence Management for staff
42 support, Taylor and Pat and Dave. And also Yukon Delta
43 National Wildlife Refuge for their lodging of most of the
44 Council members, and using their vehicles and all
45 transportation while we're continue having problem and giving
46 them hard time with the transportation, and used their vehicle,
47 equipments to move around. And meeting place, prepare for us a
48 meeting place. Also Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Andy
49 Aderman and Jon Dyasuk, with their continuously coming over and
50 even though there's a weather problem and all that. We

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1 appreciated what there has been done. I think that mostly the
2 -- our translator team, you know. I think Chuck is the
3 faithful one, but this meeting seems to me is kind of easy, you
4 know. Also with Chuck and Alex Nick and Jon Dyasuk, we thank
5 you for your translating. Also Department of Fish and Game, I
6 think the most -- when we started out, we didn't know -- me, I
7 didn't know very much. And I keep on bother Mike Coffing, he's
8 right there all the time. And I call him from my home asking
9 question and what's going on. I tell him to help me and this
10 and that. And we appreciate that. And also in that team, Ida
11 Alexie, also Roger Seavoy and Charlie Burkey and now is Rich
12 Cannon. I know Rich Cannon for long time, and -- and also from
13 AVCP, Michelle Sparck, we thank you for your continuously
14 involved with us, you know, and helping us. I appreciate every
15 one of you. It was to me a learning process, what I've done,
16 because of some time of I didn't have that much education, but
17 people sometime -- the Council ask me how you do that? And how
18 you do this? Well, I do my best, and will continue to.

19
20 I do -- how I do with pronunciation is, especially the
21 names is my problem. Before I come over to the meetings, my
22 sons and daughters pitch in and start helping me pronounce
23 them. That's the way I learn to try to pronounce the name. If
24 all the names are Wilde, it would be good, you know.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So we thank you for your help and we
29 appreciate it.

30
31 So again the next one is where are we going to have a
32 meeting next? You turn your packet over to K. K on your
33 packet. John, will you take care of that under item K.

34
35 MR. ANDREW: I put mine away. Can I borrow yours?

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum. Go ahead.

38
39 MR. ANDREW: Sorry. The way these meetings are set up,
40 we have ten regional councils statewide, and we try not to
41 overlap with other regions, especially this region, we try not
42 to overlap with Bristol Bay and Western Interior, and sometimes
43 with Seward Pen, because they're all our neighbors right around
44 us. And we try to work his out way ahead of time like in
45 summer or early fall over in Anchorage, we try to figure out
46 what our meeting window will be. This year for our winter
47 meeting, it's got to be between February 22nd and March 24th.
48 And for this Council we try to avoid trying to start on Monday
49 or do it on Friday, because, you know, when we have weather
50 related problems, there's no staff available on Sunday or none

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1 on Saturday to help us out if we ever get stranded in one area.
2 For this Council, traditionally since we started about, like
3 Harry said, six years ago, we always try to place it like on
4 Tuesday and Wednesday and got to be on the first week of the
5 month. If we can find Tuesday and Friday -- or -- and trying
6 not to come into conflict mainly with Bristol Bay and Western
7 Interior. If not,.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: How about -- how about.....

10
11 MR. ANDREW:(Indiscernible -- simultaneous
12 speech) leave it to the Council to decide where they'd like to
13 have their next meeting.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: How about March 3 and.....

16
17 MR. ANDREW: 2 and 3.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

20
21 MR. ANDREW: March 2 and 3 (In Yup'ik).

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 2 and 3?

24
25 MR. ANDREW: Yeah.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think we have one of our Council not
28 able to attend 2 and 3. Does this 2 and 3 conflict with other
29 regions?

30
31 MR. ANDREW: Not right now. Not right now we know of
32 -- that we know of.

33
34 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, there are some other
35 meetings during that week up in Kiana outside of Kotzebue, and
36 again in Nome. But those are not a conflict with your Council,
37 so you're -- it's open.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You can't -- aren't able to be here
40 then on a meeting at that time?

41
42 MR. TIKIUN: No, but, see, I'm just an alternate. I
43 only attend one meeting a year, so.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

46
47 MR. TIKIUN:if there's -- unless there's some
48 other council members that, you know, couldn't attend then,
49 that would be a problem, but right now I don't see it as a
50 problem. So.....

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1 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, since our.....

2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester?

4
5 MR. L. WILDE:alternate is from Alakanuk I'd like
6 to move that the next meeting be held on March 2nd and 3rd in
7 Alakanuk.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think.....

10
11 MR. L. WILDE: That way we're assured to have our
12 alternate there.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think way earlier we are invited by
17 John Hanson to have a meeting at Alakanuk. I think we're going
18 to need alternate meeting place.

19
20 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I have a motion on the
21 floor.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion on the floor, if there's any
24 second?

25
26 MR. HANSON: Second.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by John. Discussion?

29
30 MR. HANSON: Mr. Chairman, if the weather is bad then
31 Mountain Village is fine.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think we had the meeting at Mountain
34 Village already. We would like to -- we try to move it around
35 like we do it in Kuskokwim, we do it in Yukon, we try to keep
36 it that way.

37
38 MR. HANSON: What if the weather is bad? We could
39 suggest a meeting -- move it to another day?

40
41 MR. L. WILDE: The weather won't dare to be bad when we
42 come to your town, John.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: How about alternate at Emmonak?
47 Emmonak got a long airport there.

48
49 MR. L. WILDE: Uh-hum. Yeah.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You don't really have to worry about
2 -- in fact, maybe if that -- Emmonak would be alternate, people
3 from Anchorage could fly direct to Emmonak from Anchorage.
4 That's other opportunity.

5
6 MR. ANDREW: As the secondary.

7
8 MR. L. WILDE: Can I just incorporate that into my
9 motion with the consent of my second?

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum. Yeah.

12
13 MR. HANSON: Ee-ee. Yeah.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It's okay? That's -- yeah, there's a
16 motion on the floor now. Alakanuk, meeting at Alakanuk on the
17 2nd and 3rd?

18
19 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, 2nd and 3rd.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And the alternate is Emmonak. So if
22 the weather not -- if the weather is kind of bad in Alakanuk,
23 and then we have meeting at Emmonak. If there's any more
24 discussion?

25
26 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, the only problem we have
27 is when the weather is bad in Alakanuk, it's also bad in
28 Emmonak. Maybe we should -- I think what we need to do is
29 probably make an alternate date, too, you know, in the event
30 that we can't make it on the 2nd and 3rd, maybe we could delay
31 the meeting for a week and be able to come in on the 9th and
32 10th. How would that work?

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We have to approve your motion maybe
35 first, then.....

36
37 MR. L. WILDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I stand corrected.
38 Question.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been called for. All
41 who favor it say aye?

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, same sign?

46
47 (No opposing votes.)

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Our meeting place
50 will be at Alakanuk, an alternate place is Emmonak.

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1 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I would to also make
2 another motion that in the event that the weather is bad on the
3 2nd and 3rd, that the meeting be postponed for the 9th or the
4 10th. A week after. Can you live with that, Taylor?

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Taylor?

7
8 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I was going
9 to say, to reassure Lester that we would normally look for
10 alternative plans, a change in location if we can, or a
11 postponement to stay in the same location. So when we've had
12 surprises, we always consult with the officers of the Council
13 to try and solve that problem, and we would certainly try to
14 have an alternative date if that would solve the problem.

15
16 MR. L. WILDE: So is a motion needed?

17
18 MR. BRELSFORD: I don't think a motion would be
19 required on that point.

20
21 MR. L. WILDE: I'll withdraw my motion, Mr. Chairman.

22
23 MR. BRELSFORD: I do need to mention that we have to
24 plan and be careful about making sure there are facilities in
25 the community for the meeting place, lodging for the Council
26 members, and for the teams that will come. Our Council is
27 pretty fortunate here to have good participation from ADF&G and
28 AVCP, different one, so we have to be sure there's enough
29 housing in each village. We'll do our best to make the local
30 arrangements like that, and go ahead with your proposed
31 locations and dates.

32
33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We can always share a pen (ph).

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

36
37 MR. NICK: Would the motion be more proper that in the
38 event that the weather prevents the gathering of Council and
39 staff support on the March 2nd and 3rd, that a separate date be
40 selected, and then the meeting be held at the call of the
41 Chair?

42
43 MR. BRELSFORD: Again, I would say that's the way we do
44 business anyway. It wouldn't require a motion to my eyes.

45
46 MR. NICK: Okay.

47
48 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, if there's no further
49 discussions, I'd move that this meeting be adjourned.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think I rather to depend on staff,
2 so we won't be conflict with others regions, you know, on top
3 of each other. It's going to be the problem. I think for that
4 alternate time, the date, I think it should come from staff or
5 Department, and let me know that -- what day would be the time
6 for alternate. Okay.

7
8 There's a motion on the floor to adjourn.

9
10 MR. McCANN: Second.

11
12 MR. ANDREW: Closing.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, yeah. All that favor to adjourn
15 say aye?

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Benediction. Close it
20 with a benediction. I'm going to ask Bill McCann to close us
21 with the benediction.

22
23 MR. McCANN: (Benediction in Yup'ik)

24
25 (Off record - 12:27 p.m.)
26 *****
27 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
28 *****

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

) ss.

STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Meredith L. Downing, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska and Reporter for R & R Court Reporters, Inc., do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 123 through 197 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Volume II, meeting taken electronically by me on the 7th day of October, 1998, beginning at the hour of 8:00 o'clock a.m. at the Cultural Center, Bethel, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by me to the best of my knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 14th day of October, 1998.

Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 7/3/02

S E A L